



MIRABAI

SHE GAVE HER HEART TO KRISHNA

Vol 535





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mirabai



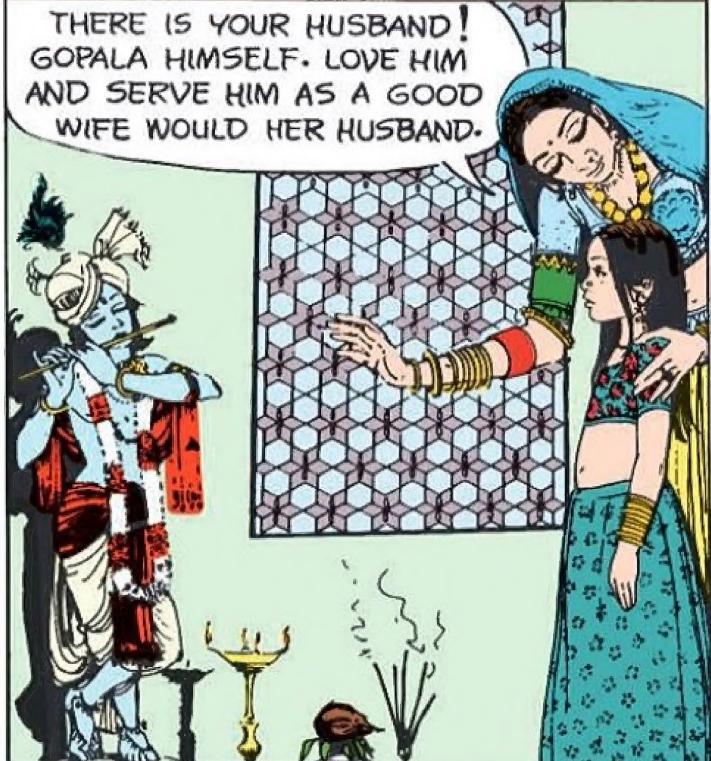
RANA RATANSINGH, WHO RULED OVER KURKHI IN RAJASTHAN, WAS A GOOD RULER AND WAS LOVED BY HIS PEOPLE. HE HAD A BEAUTIFUL DAUGHTER NAMED MIRA.

ONE DAY WHEN MIRA WAS ABOUT FIVE YEARS OLD, A WEDDING PROCESSION PASSED BY THE PALACE.



HER MOTHER LED HER TO AN IMAGE OF LORD KRISHNA, KEPT IN A CORNER OF THE ROOM. MIRA LOVED THIS IMAGE.

THERE IS YOUR HUSBAND!
GOPALA HIMSELF. LOVE HIM
AND SERVE HIM AS A GOOD
WIFE WOULD HER HUSBAND.



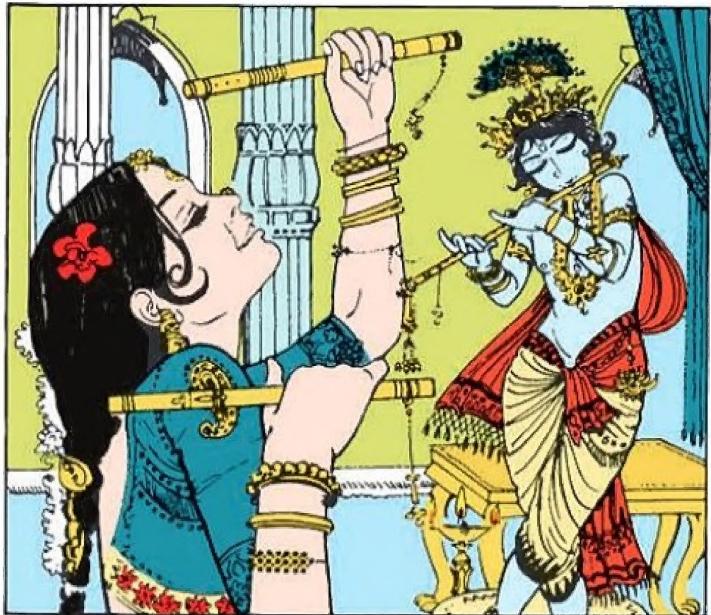
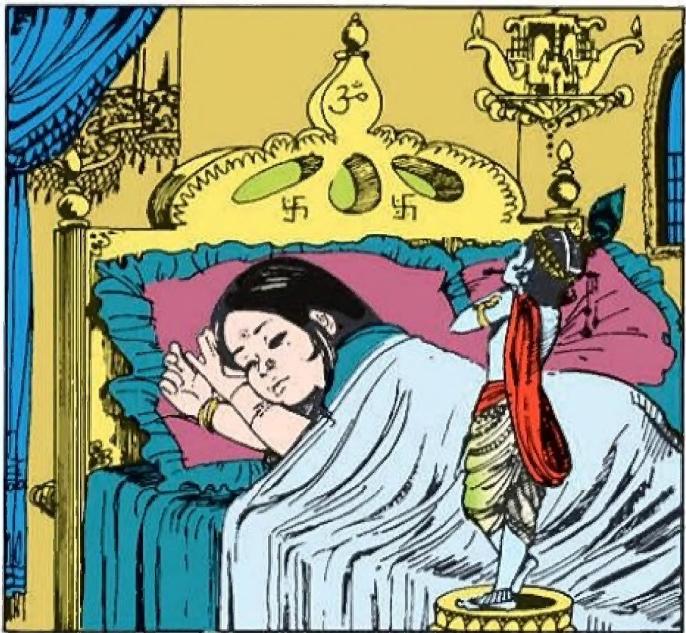
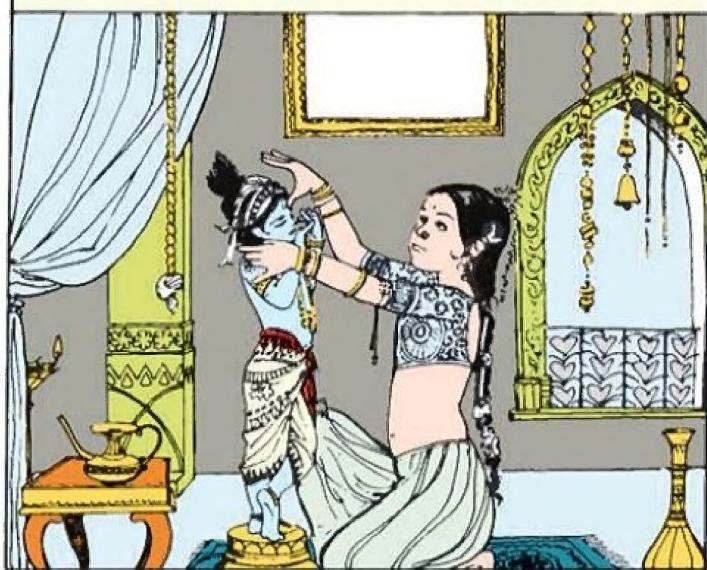
MIRA TOOK HER MOTHER SERIOUSLY.

FROM NOW ON
GOPALA IS
MINE AND I AM
HIS.

FROM
NOW ON YOU
MUST PROTECT
ME, FOR I AM
YOUR BRIDE.



AND SHE LEFT OFF ALL OTHER PLAY.



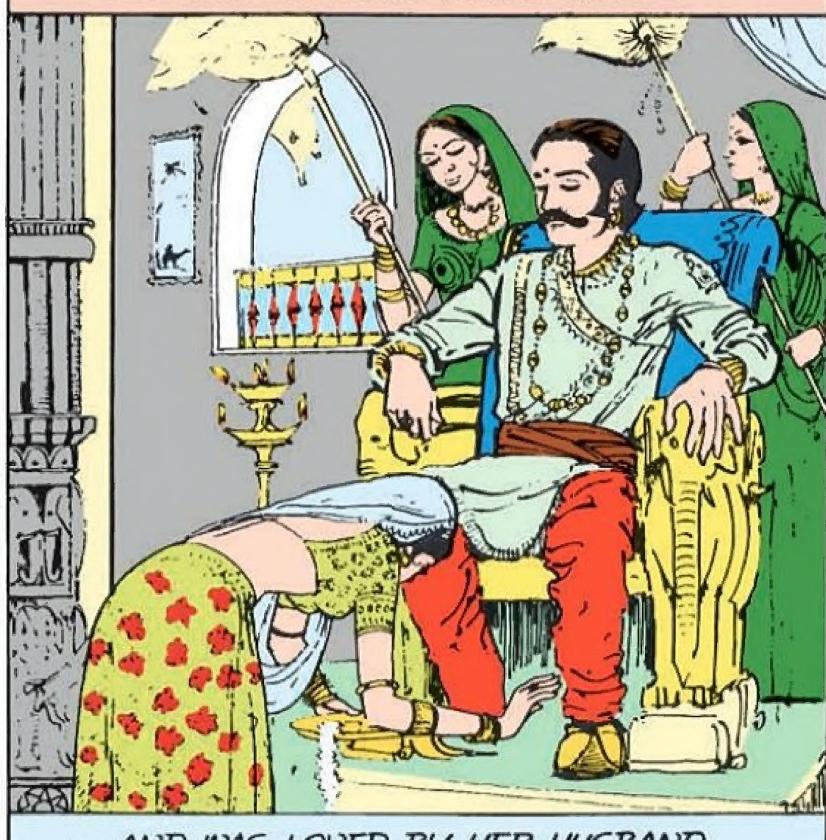
SO THE YEARS PASSED AND MIRA WAS STEADFAST IN HER LOVE OF HER DIVINE HUSBAND.

ONE DAY A BRIDAL PROCESSION ARRIVED AND MIRA WAS MARRIED TO PRINCE BHOURAU OF CHITTOR WHO WAS KNOWN FOR HIS VALOUR AND HIS DEEP HATRED OF THE MUGHALS -

INDEED I AM FORTUNATE!
MY PRINCESS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL GIRL I HAVE EVER SEEN.



MIRA WAS AN IDEAL HINDU WIFE...



... AND WAS LOVED BY HER HUSBAND.

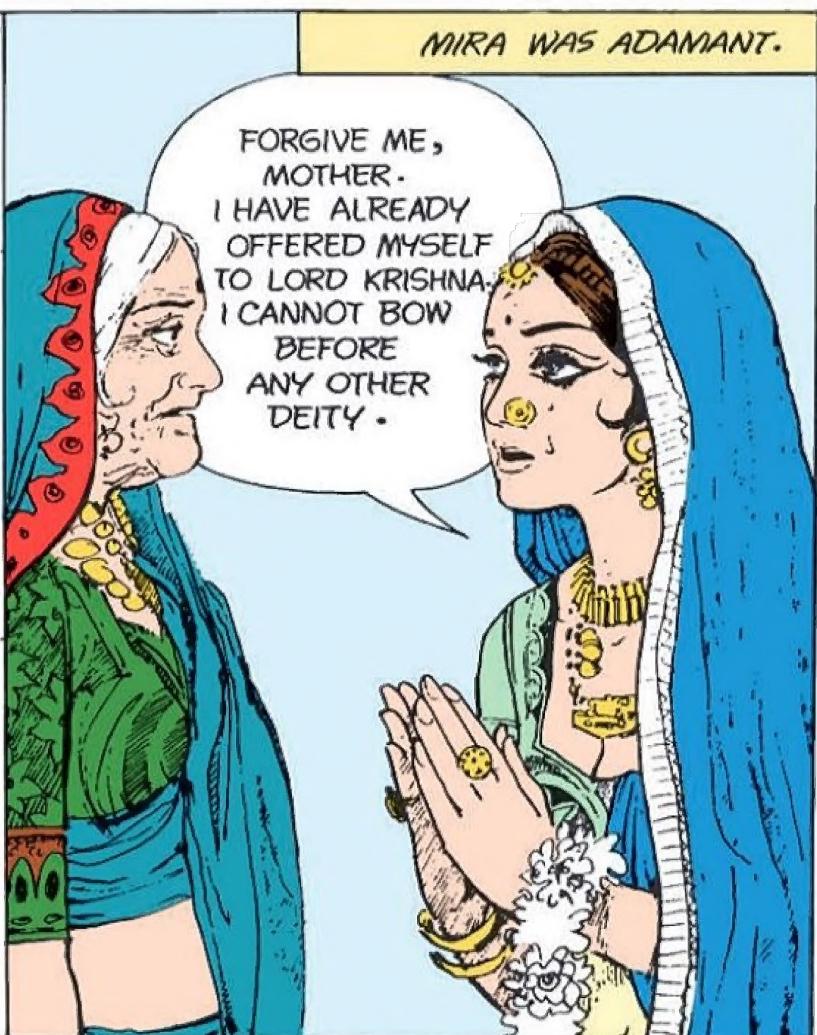
BUT AS SOON AS HER HOUSEHOLD DUTIES WERE OVER, MIRA WOULD TURN TO HER DIVINE HUSBAND—HER GOPALA—WHOM SHE HAD BROUGHT WITH HER.



HER MOTHER-IN-LAW DID NOT APPROVE OF THIS.



MIRA WAS ADAMANT.



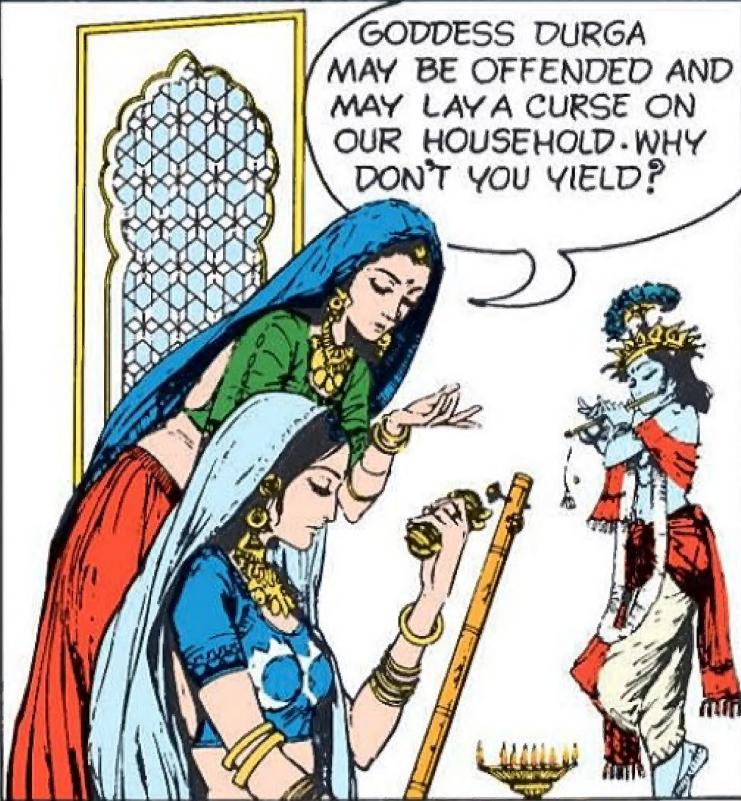
BHOURAJ'S SISTER UDA ALSO TRIED HER HAND BUT IN VAIN.

GODDESS DURGA MAY BE OFFENDED AND MAY LAY A CURSE ON OUR HOUSEHOLD. WHY DON'T YOU YIELD?

FULL OF ANGER, SHE DECIDED TO TAKE REVENGE.

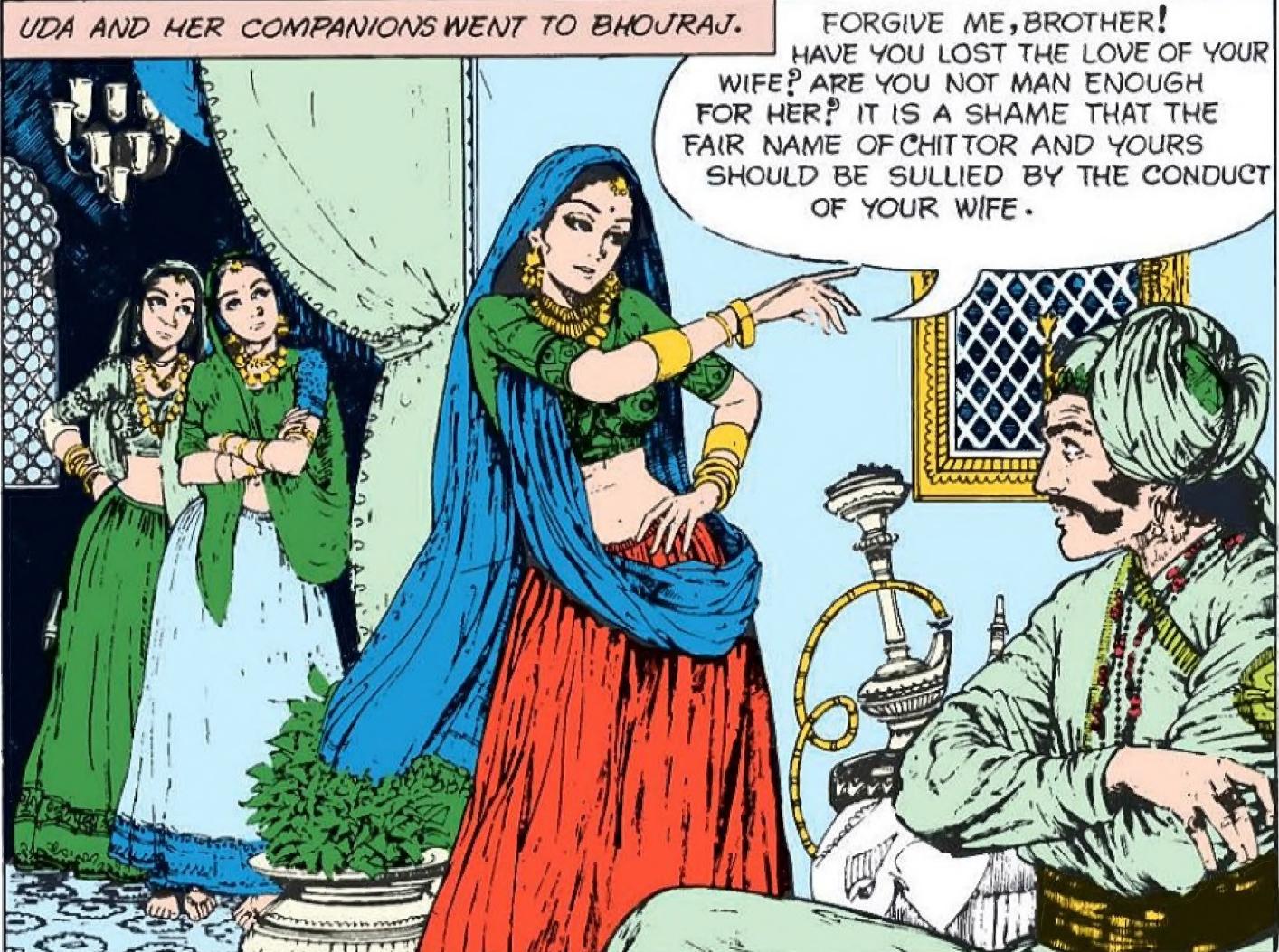
MIRA GOES EVERY EVENING TO THE TEMPLE. I WILL TELL MY BROTHER SHE HAS A LOVER!

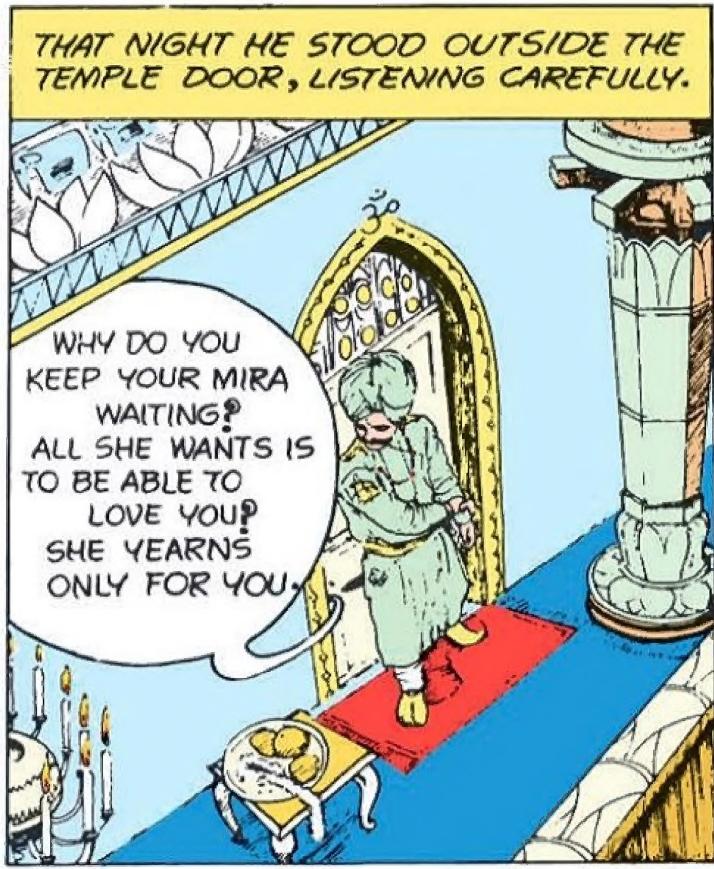
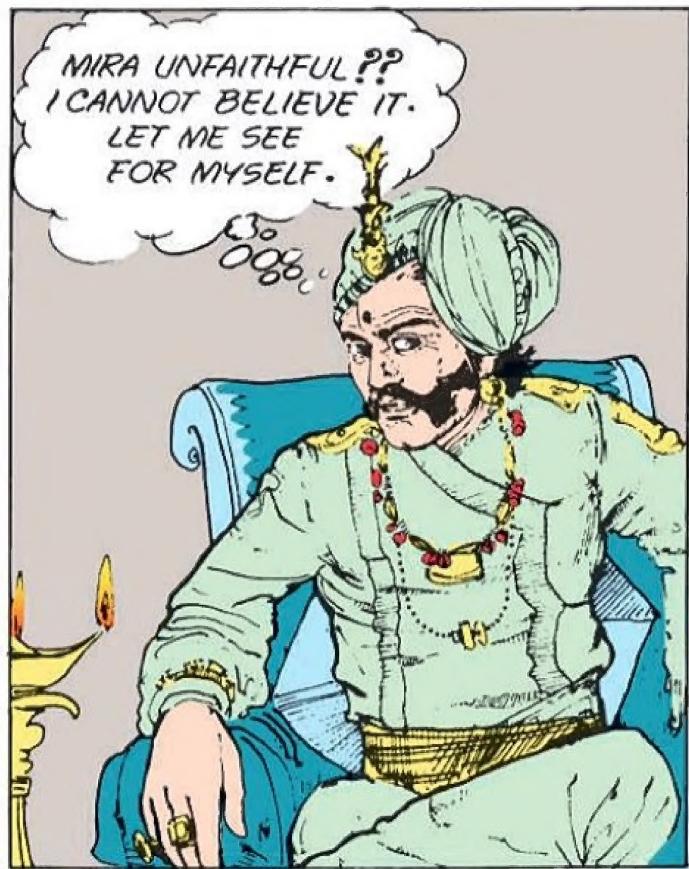
A CLEVER IDEA.



UDA AND HER COMPANIONS WENT TO BHOURAJ.

FORGIVE ME, BROTHER! HAVE YOU LOST THE LOVE OF YOUR WIFE? ARE YOU NOT MAN ENOUGH FOR HER? IT IS A SHAME THAT THE FAIR NAME OF CHITTOR AND YOURS SHOULD BE SULLIED BY THE CONDUCT OF YOUR WIFE.



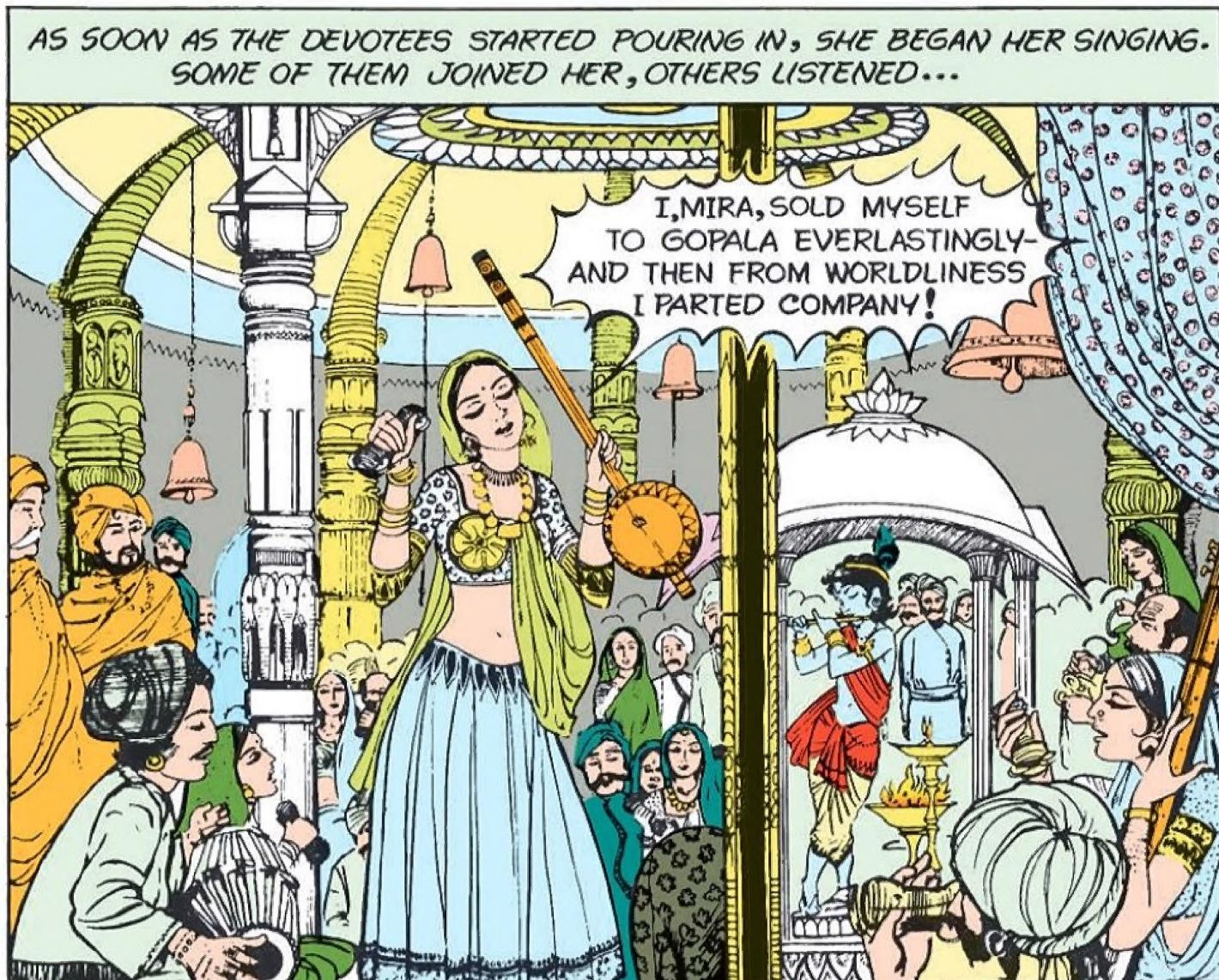
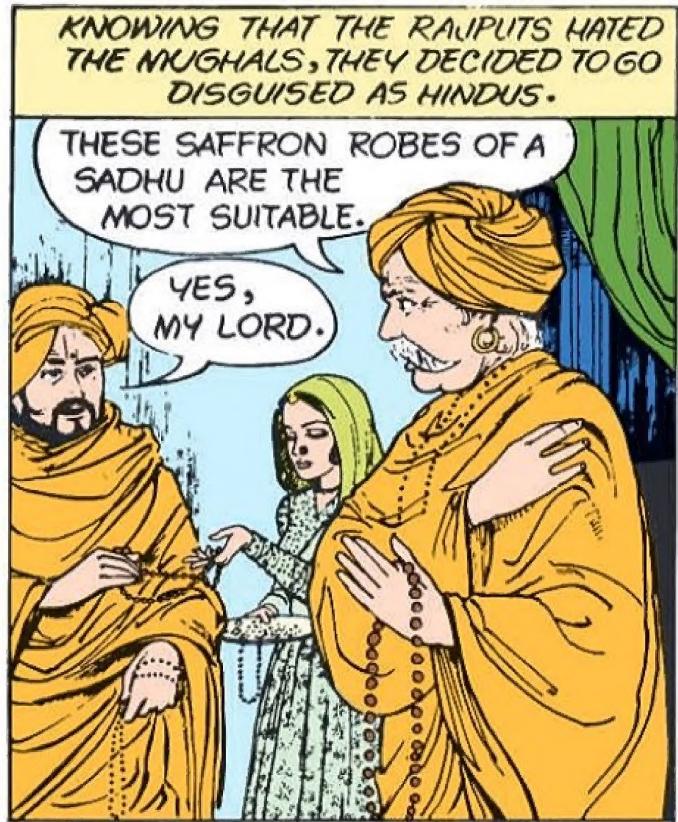


KING BHOURAJ, CONVINCED THAT HIS WIFE WAS INSANE, DECIDED TO HUMOUR HER. HE BUILT A TEMPLE FOR HER WHERE SHE COULD WORSHIP HER STONE LOVER TO HER HEART'S CONTENT! SOON DEVOTEES FLOCKED AROUND HER AND SHE OFTEN SANG AND DANCED HERSELF INTO ECSTASIES OVER HER LORD.

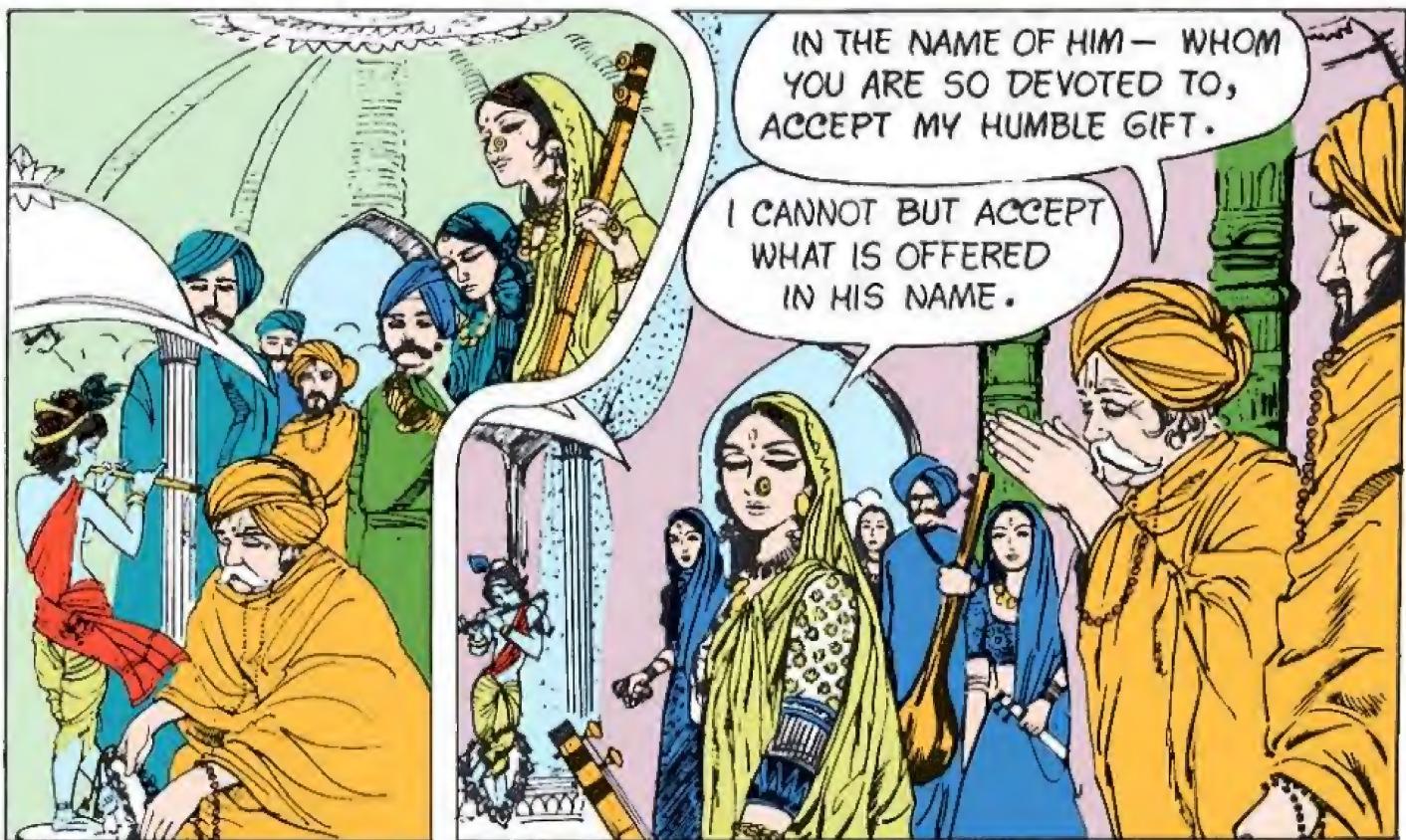


THE STORY OF MIRA'S DEVOTION TO LORD KRISHNA BY SONG, DANCE AND DISCOURSES SPREAD FAR AND WIDE. IT REACHED THE EARS OF THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AKBAR AND HIS COURT MUSICIAN, TANSEN.

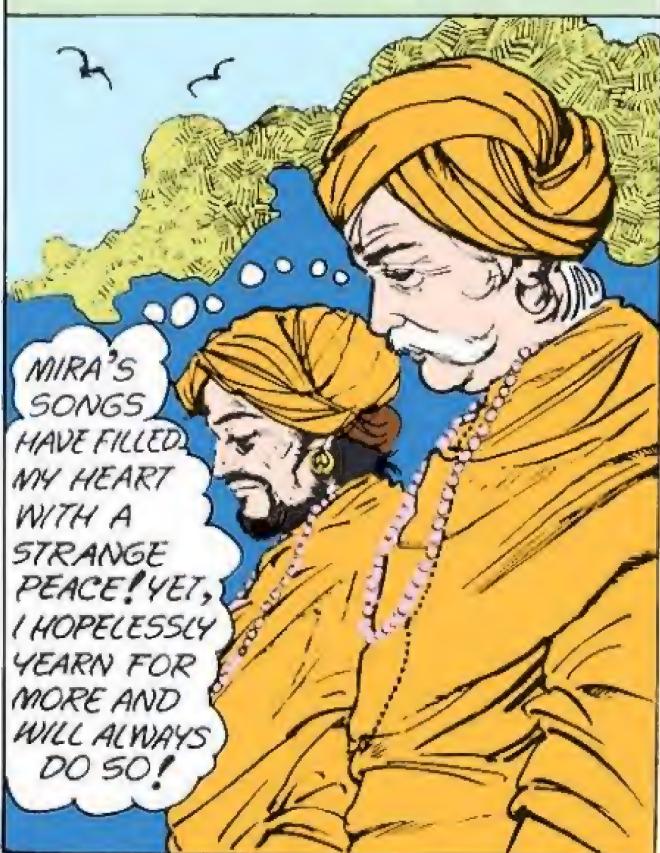




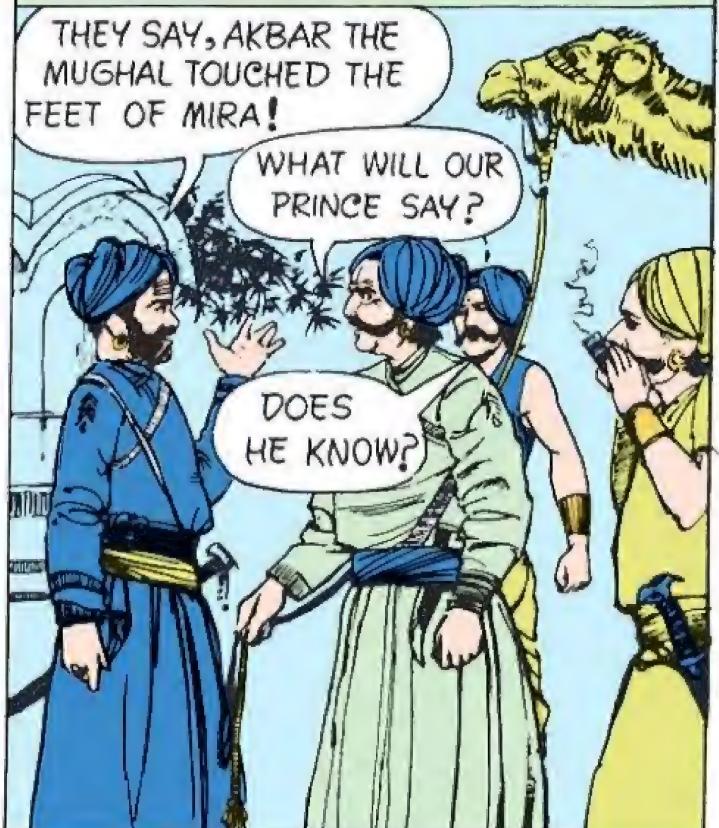
AT THE END OF THE DAY'S PRAYERS, AKBAR AND TANSEN WERE IN A TRANCE. AKBAR APPROACHED MIRA, TOUCHED HER FEET AND PLACED A NECKLACE AT THE FEET OF THE IMAGE.



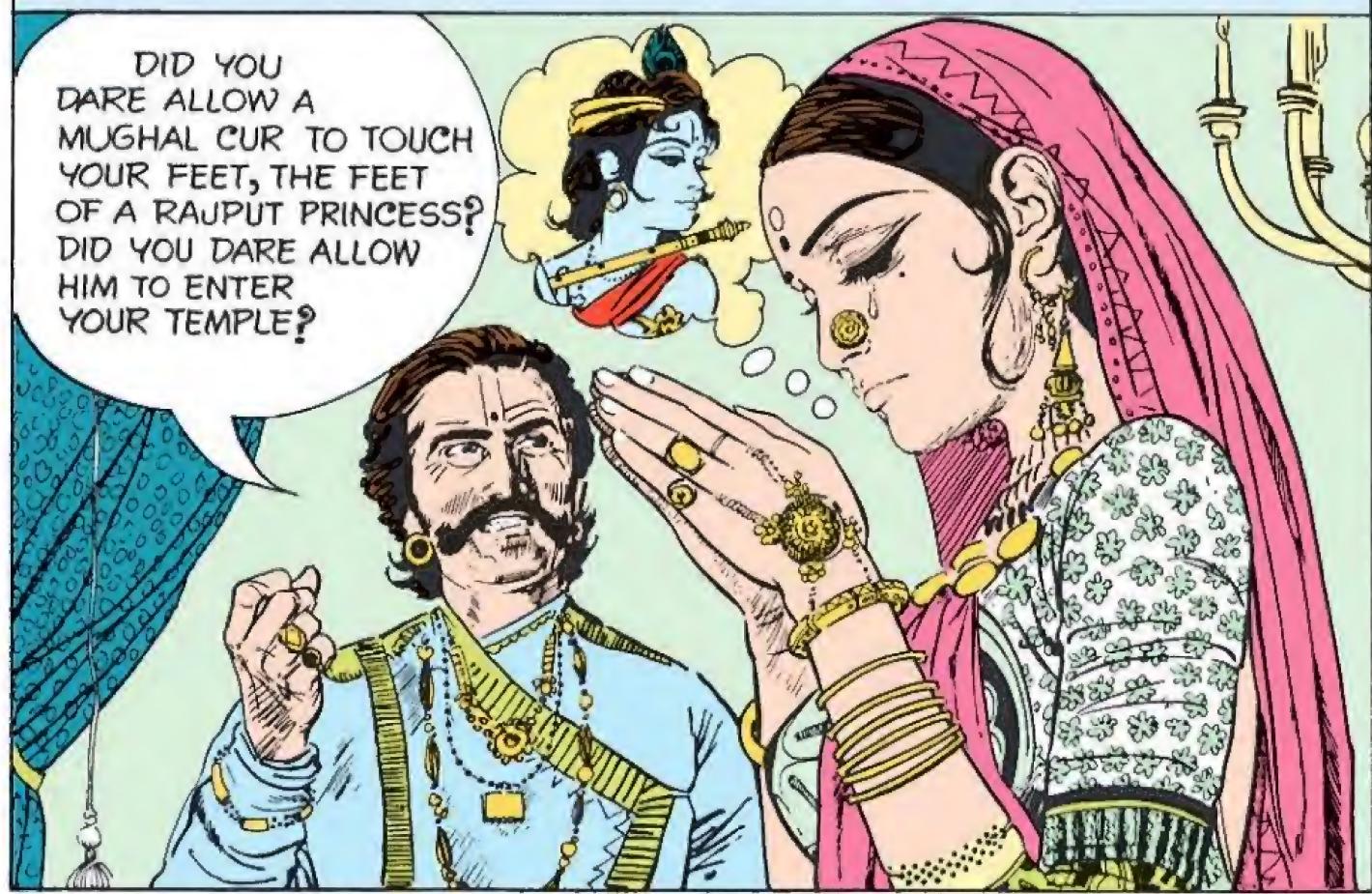
AND THE EMPEROR LEFT THE PLACE WITH A HEAVY HEART.



NEWS LEAKED OUT THAT THE MUGHAL EMPEROR AND HIS MUSICIAN HAD VISITED MIRA.



WHEN RANA BHOURAJ HEARD OF IT, HE SEETHED WITH ANGER. SANE OR INSANE HIS WIFE HAD DEGRADED HERSELF. HE SUMMONED HER.



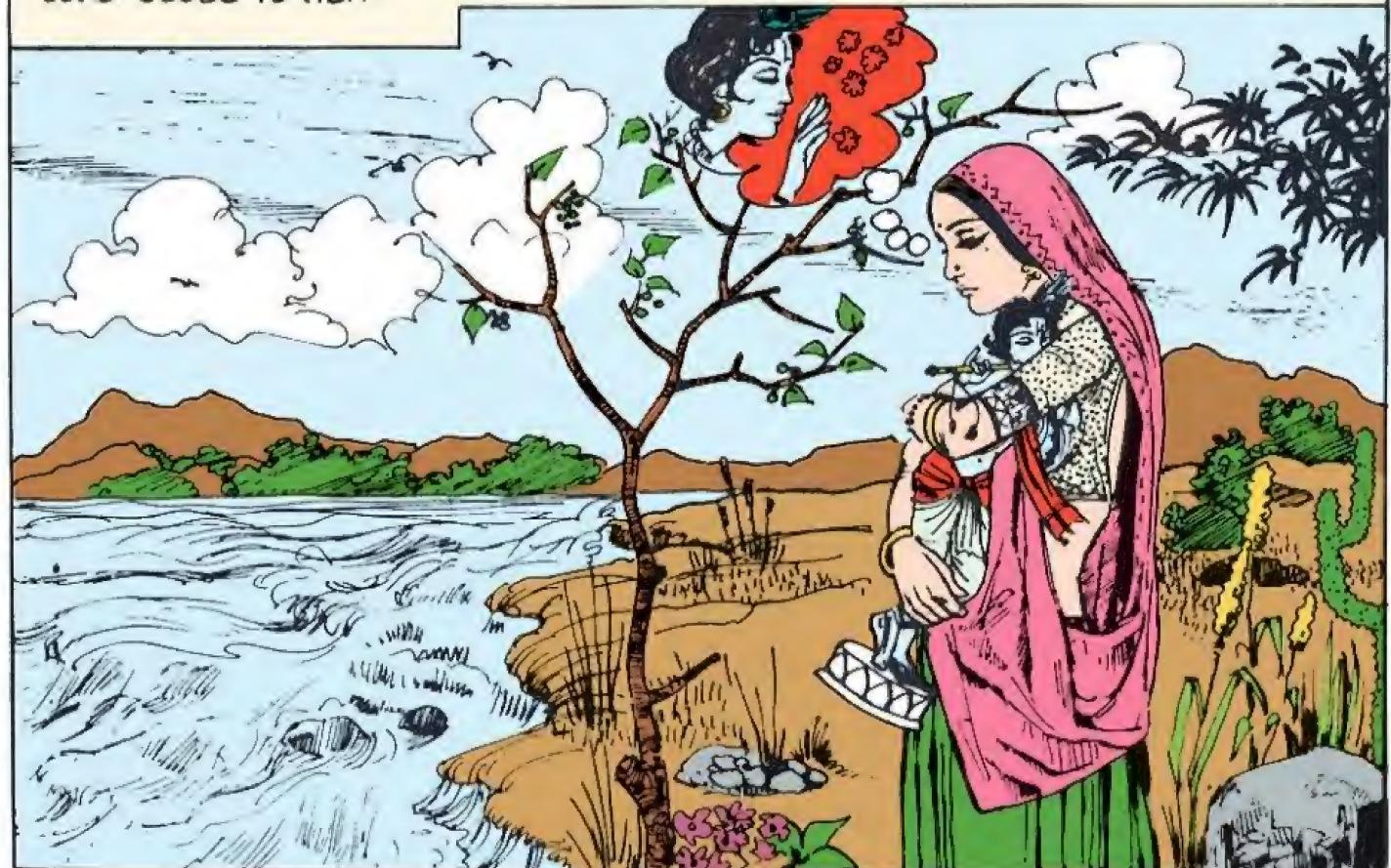
MIRA'S SERENE SILENCE ONLY MADE HIM MORE ANGRY.



MIRA, THE TRUE HINDU WIFE, DID NOT PROTEST. SHE FONDLY TOOK LEAVE OF HER TEARFUL COMPANIONS ...



... AND SLOWLY WENDED HER WAY TO THE RIVER, HUGGING THE IMAGE OF HER LORD CLOSE TO HER.



AS MIRA STOOD ON THE RIVER-BANK, THE TEMPLE BELLS CHIMED. SHE WAS ABOUT TO JUMP, WHEN A HAND FROM BEHIND GRASPED HER. SHE TURNED AROUND...



... AND WHAT SHOULD MEET HER EYES BUT THE HEAVENLY SMILE OF HER BELOVED LORD! SHE FAINTED.



WHEN MIRA REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS -

YOUR LIFE WITH
YOUR HUSBAND IS
OVER. NOW YOU ARE MINE.
GO AND SEEK ME
HENCEFORTH IN
BRINDAVAN.

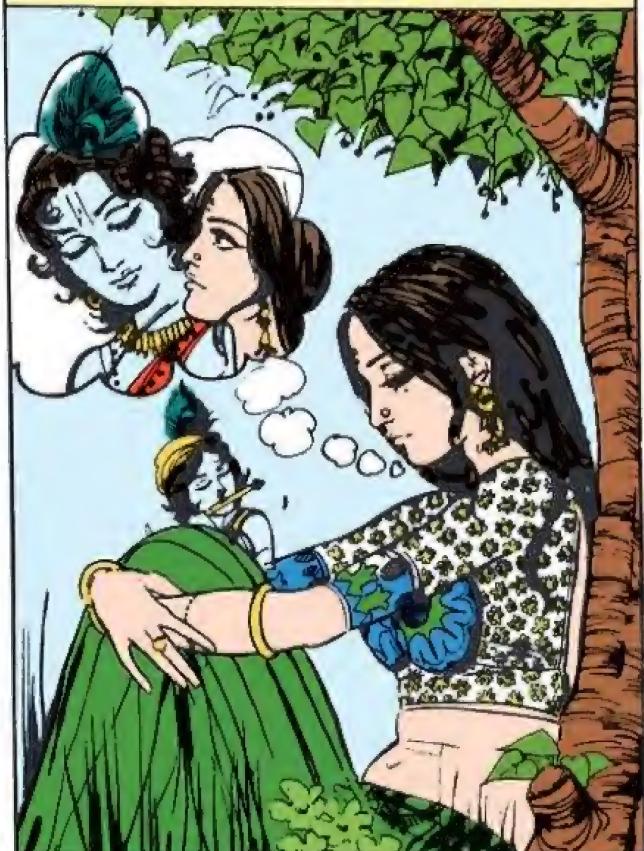
MY LORD!
MY LORD!



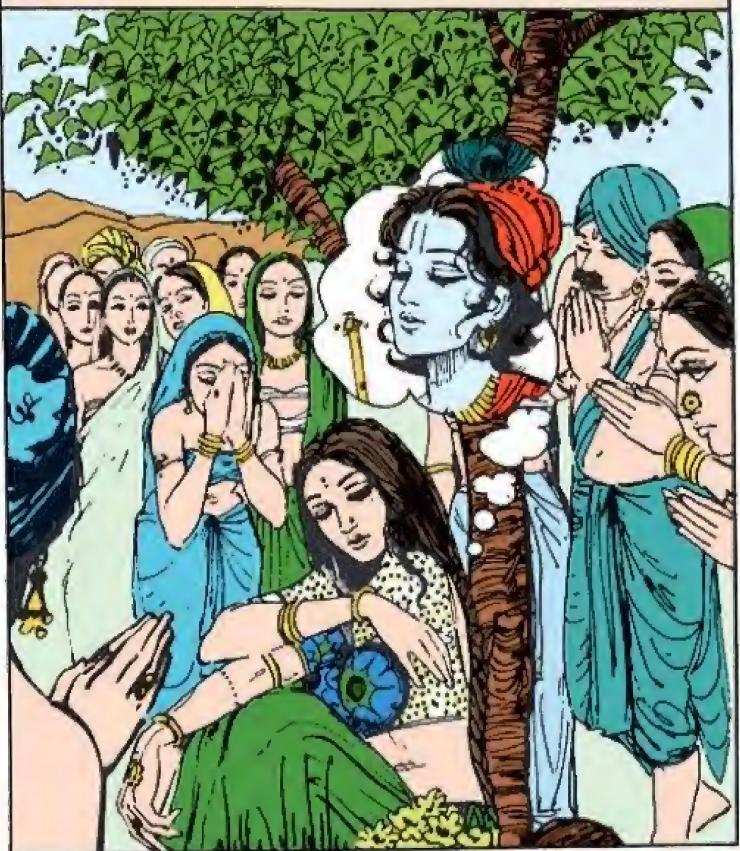
AFTER RECEIVING THE DIVINE COMMAND, MIRA SANG AND DANCED HER WAY TO BRINDAVAN, HARDLY AWARE OF ALL THAT SHE HAD TO SUFFER ON THE WAY.



AT LAST SHE REACHED HER DESTINATION - BRINDAVAN.



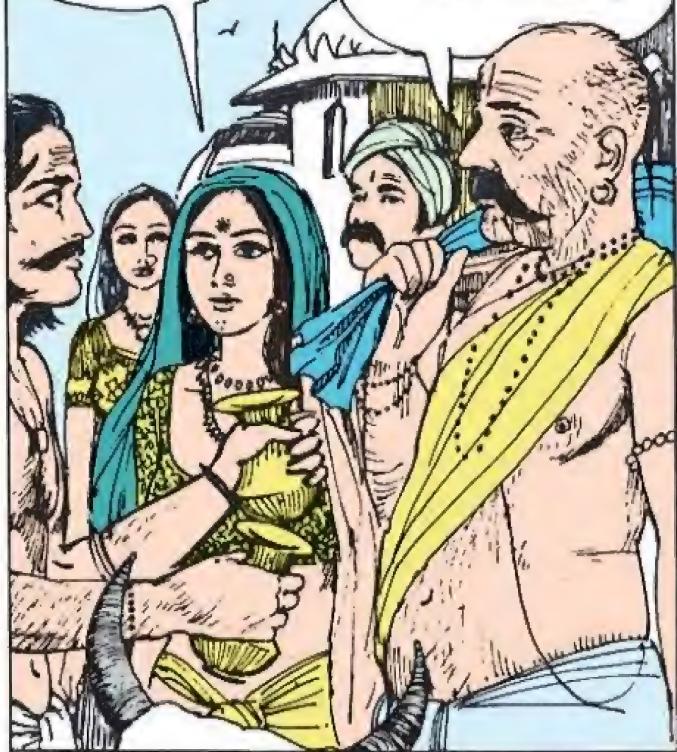
HARDLY HAD SHE ARRIVED WHEN DEVOTEES BEGAN TO FLOCK AROUND HER.



NEWS SPREAD THAT MIRA HAD COME.

MIRA HAS COME!

HAVE YOU HEARD HER SING TO GOPALA?

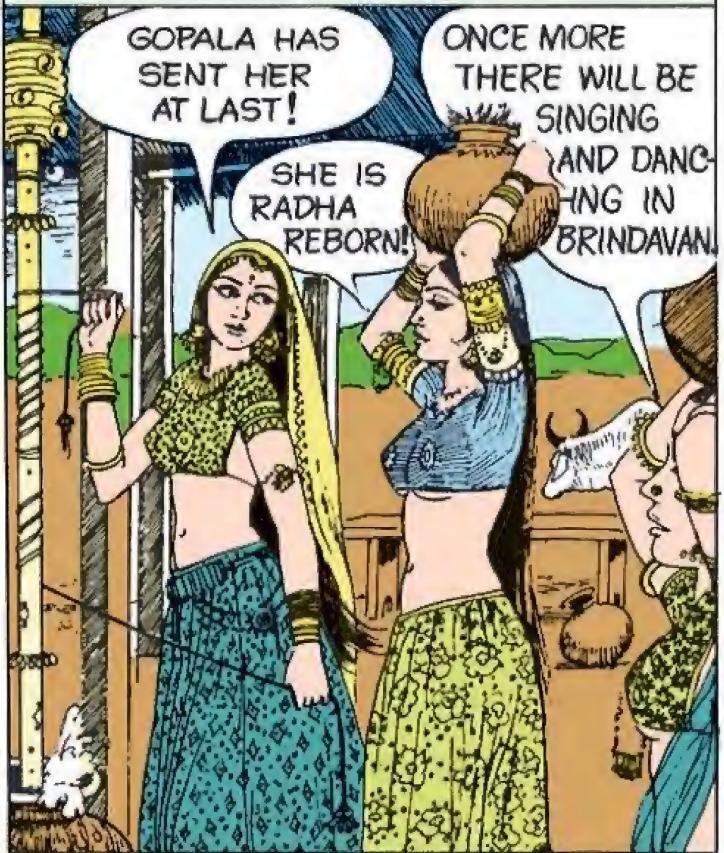


IT SEEMED AS IF HER DEVOTEES HAD HEARD OF HER AND WERE WAITING FOR HER.

GOPALA HAS SENT HER AT LAST!

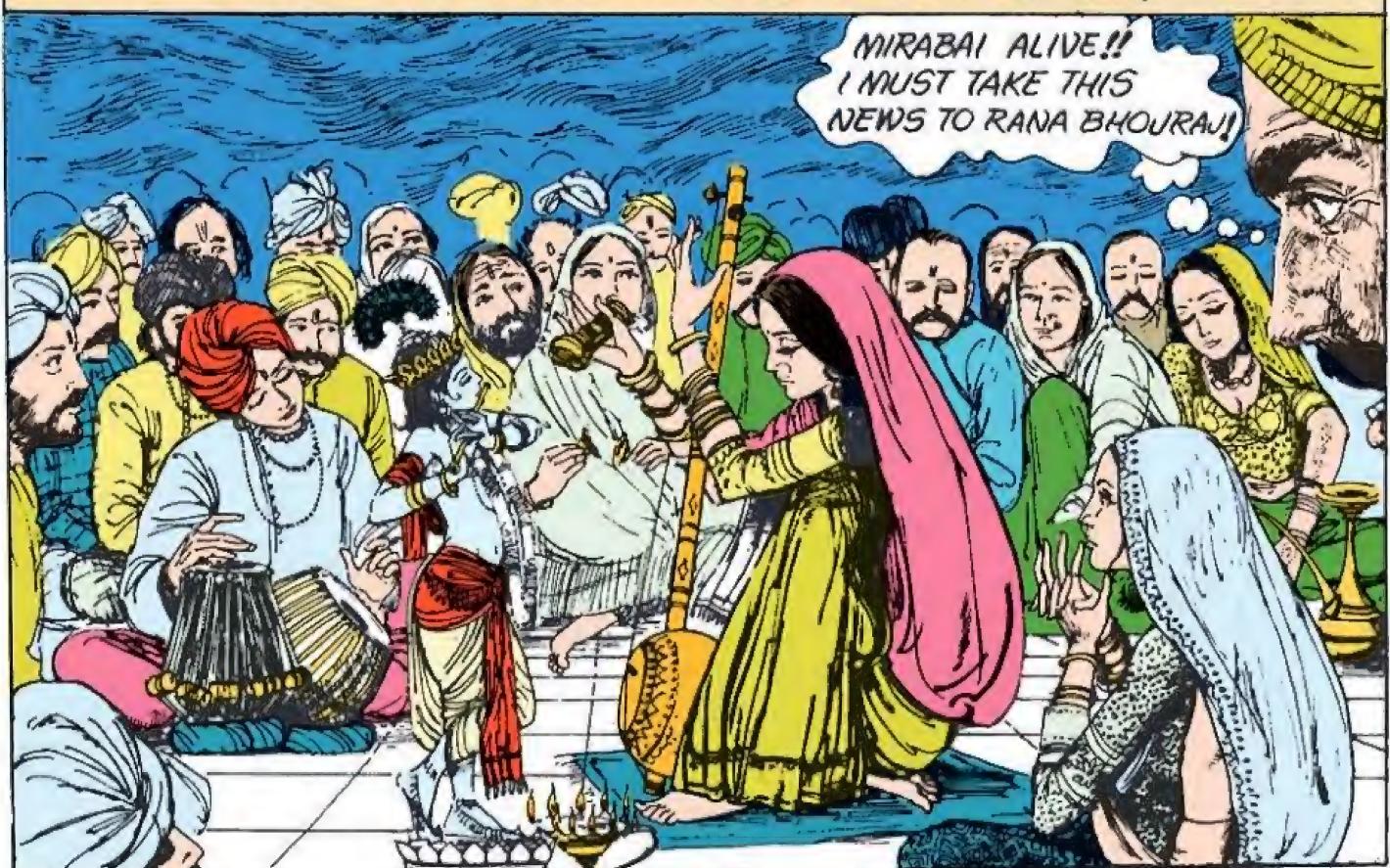
ONCE MORE THERE WILL BE SINGING AND DANCING IN BRINDAVAN.

SHE IS RADHA REBORN!



PEOPLE CAME FROM FAR OFF PLACES TO HAVE A GLIMPSE OF THIS UNINHIBITED DEVOTEE OF LORD KRISHNA. ONE OF THEM WAS A TRAVELLER FROM CHITTOR!

MIRABAI ALIVE!! I MUST TAKE THIS NEWS TO RANA BHOURAJI



WHEN HE RETURNED TO CHITTOR—



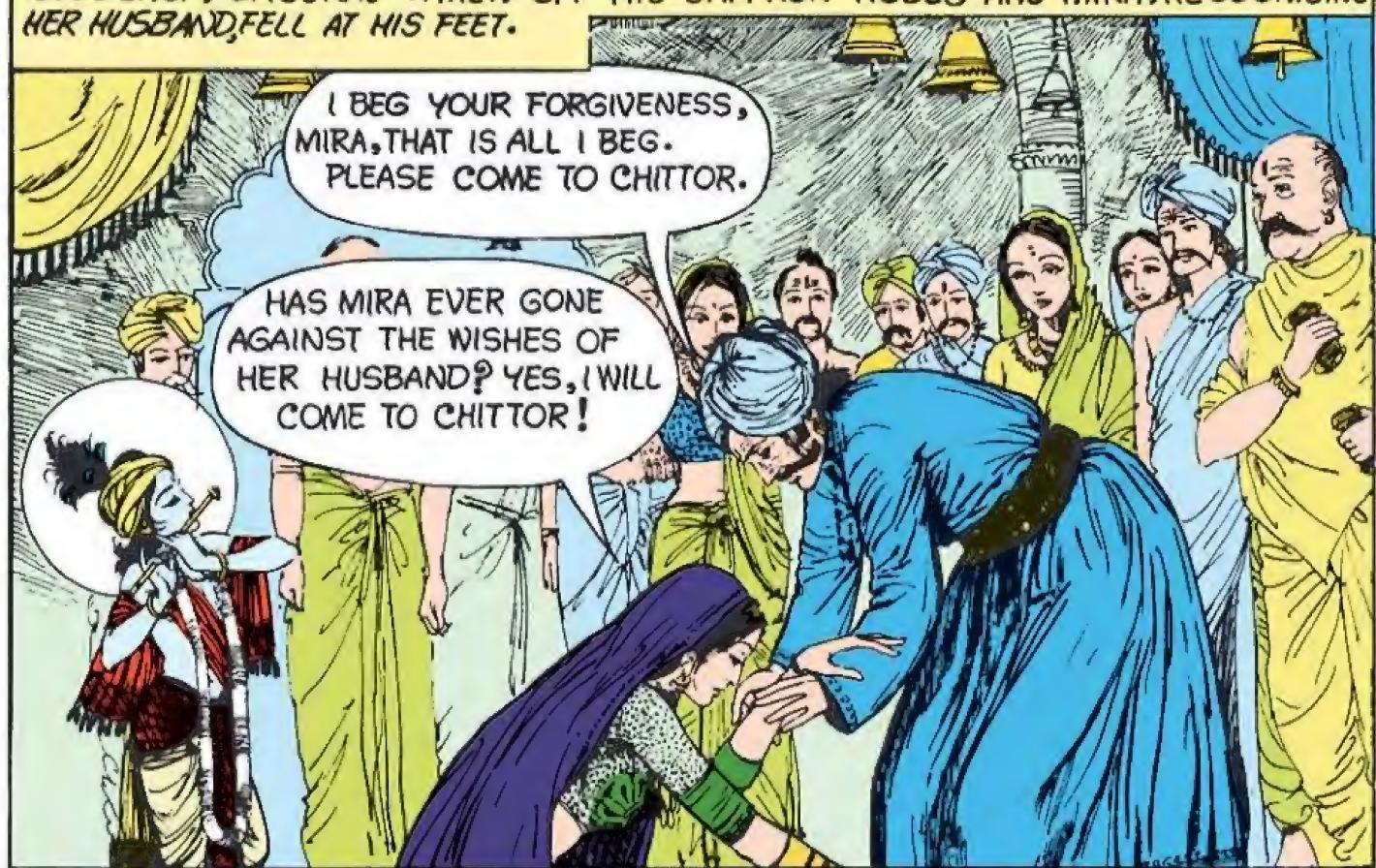
AFTER MIRA HAD GONE TO OBEY HIS COMMAND, BHOURAJ HAD REPENTED OF HIS HARSH SENTENCE.



DRESSED IN THE SAFFRON ROBES OF A SADHU, BHOURAJ TRAVELED TO BRINDAVAN. HE APPROACHED MIRA AND HELD OUT HIS PALM —



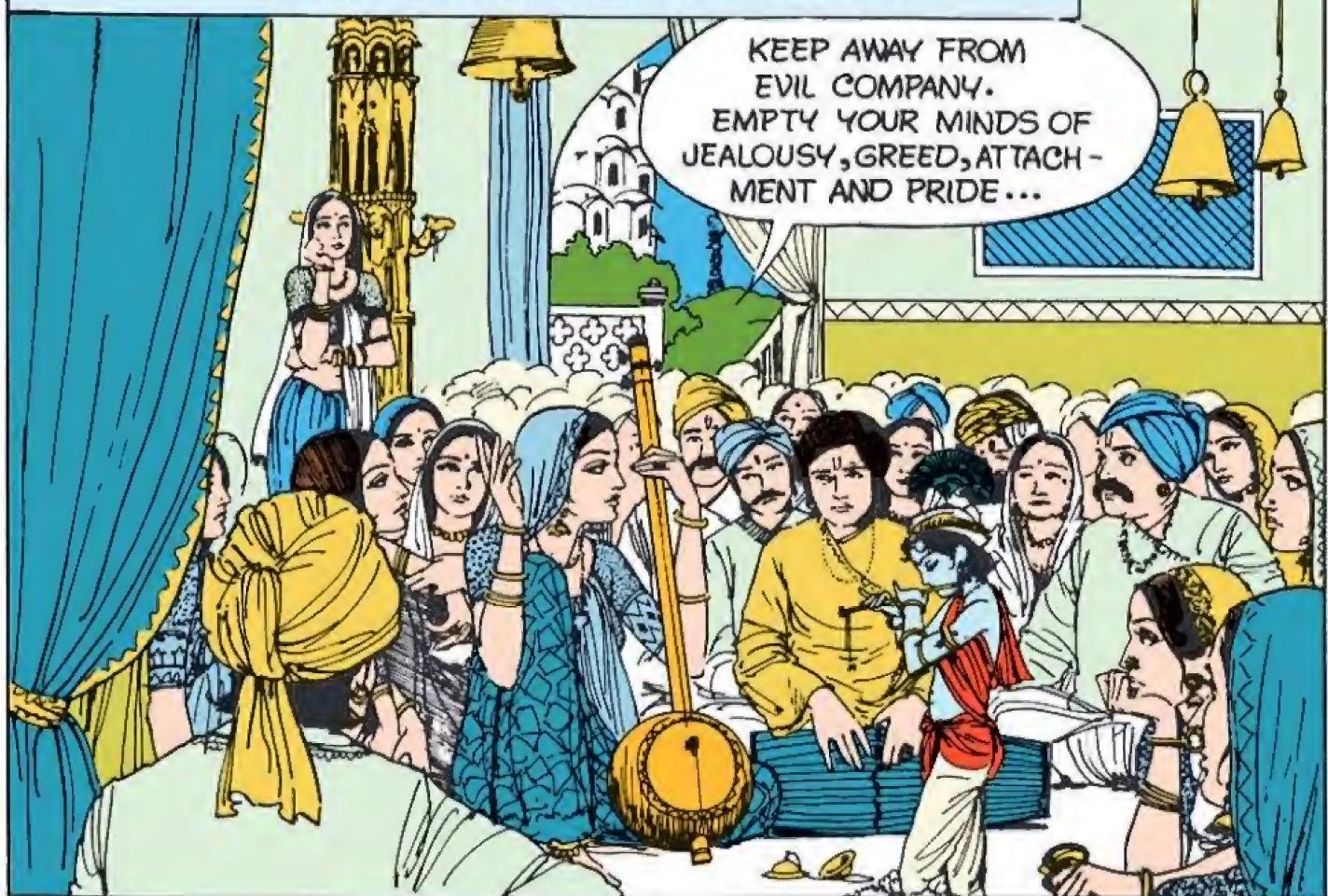
SUDDENLY, BHOURAJ THREW OFF HIS SAFFRON ROBES AND MIRA, RECOGNISING HER HUSBAND, FELL AT HIS FEET.



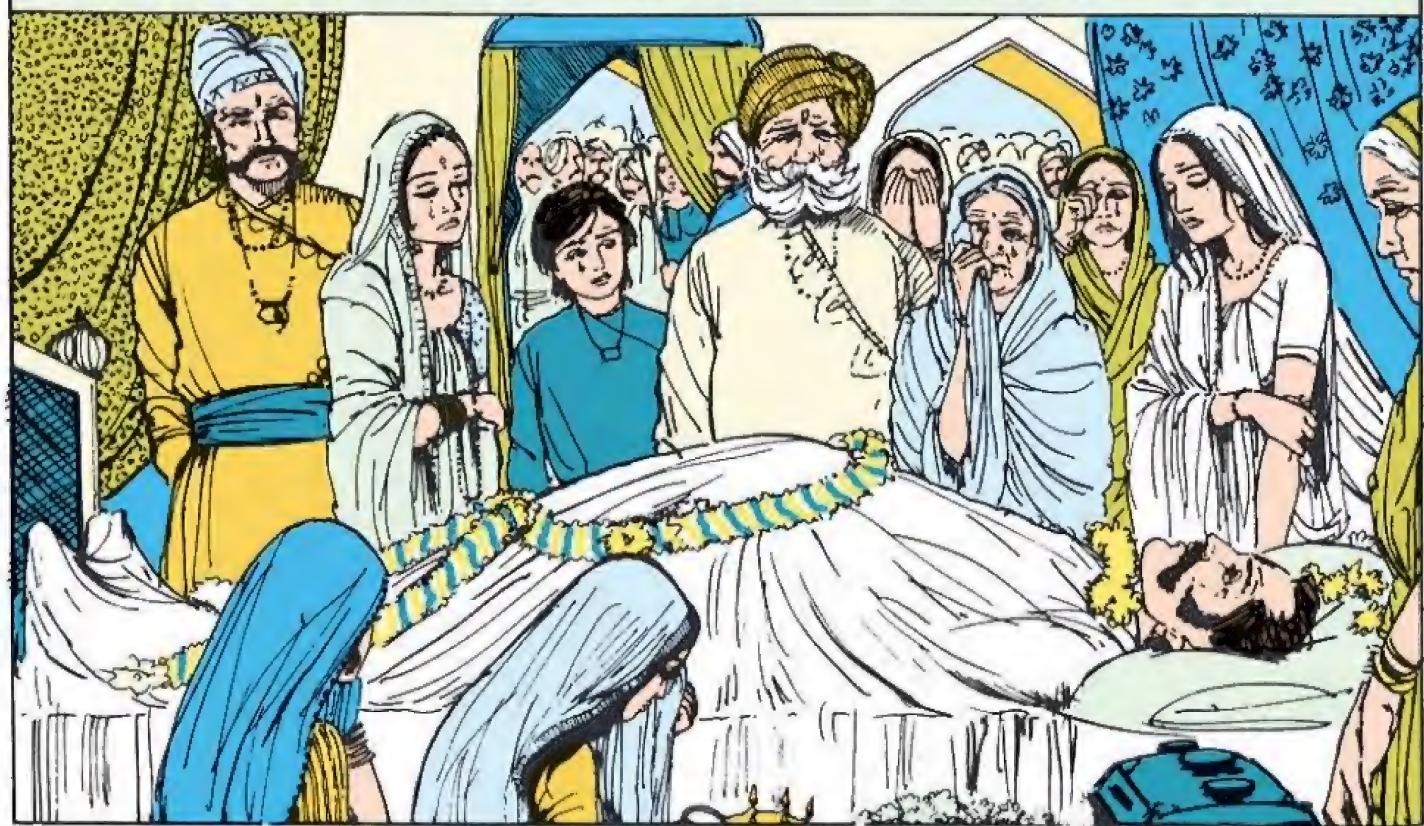
SO MIRA, LED BY HER HUSBAND AND FOLLOWED BY HER DEVOTEES, RETURNED TO CHITTOR.



AT CHITTOR, FOR MANY YEARS, SHE CONTINUED HER WORSHIP OF HER LORD, WITH COMPLETE FREEDOM.

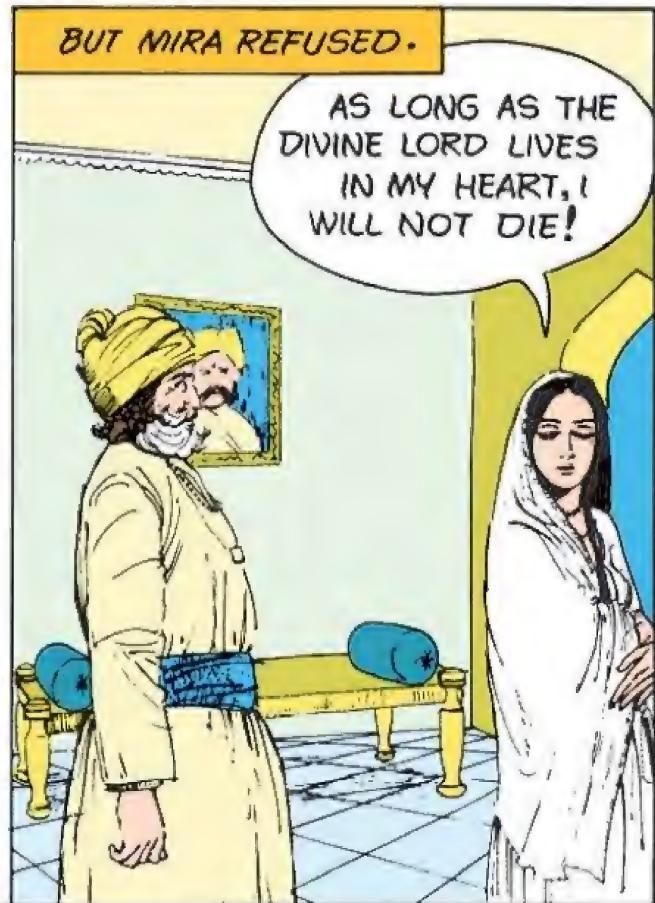
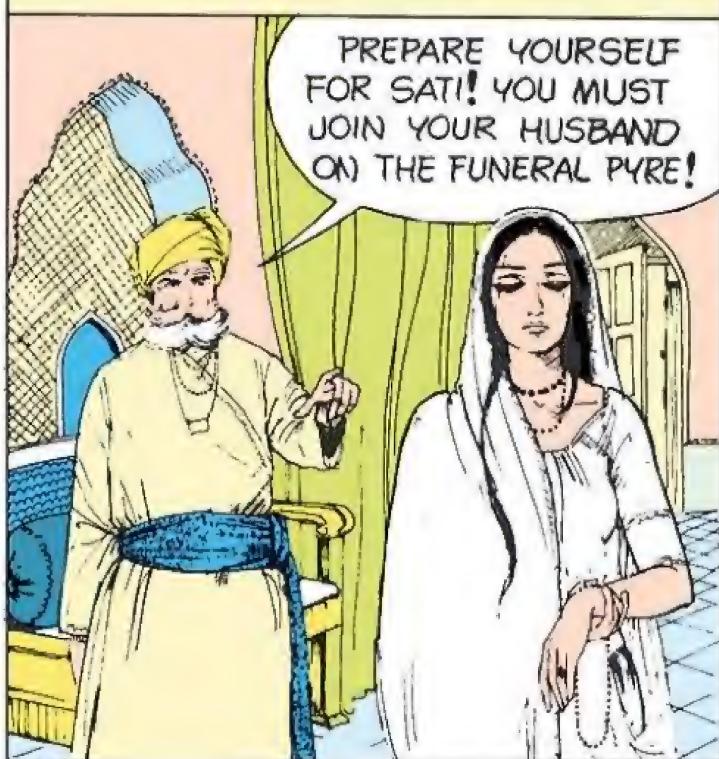


ALMOST TEN YEARS HAD PASSED SINCE MIRA HAD FIRST ARRIVED — AS BHOU-RAU'S BRIDE — TO CHITTOR, WHEN ALAS! SHE WAS WIDOWED!



BHOURAU'S FATHER SUMMONED MIRA.

BUT MIRA REFUSED.



THOUGH THE WIDOWED MIRA WAS NOW MORALLY FREE TO DEVOTE HERSELF COMPLETELY TO HER LORD, THE NEW RANA, BHOURAU'S BROTHER, GAVE HER NO PEACE.

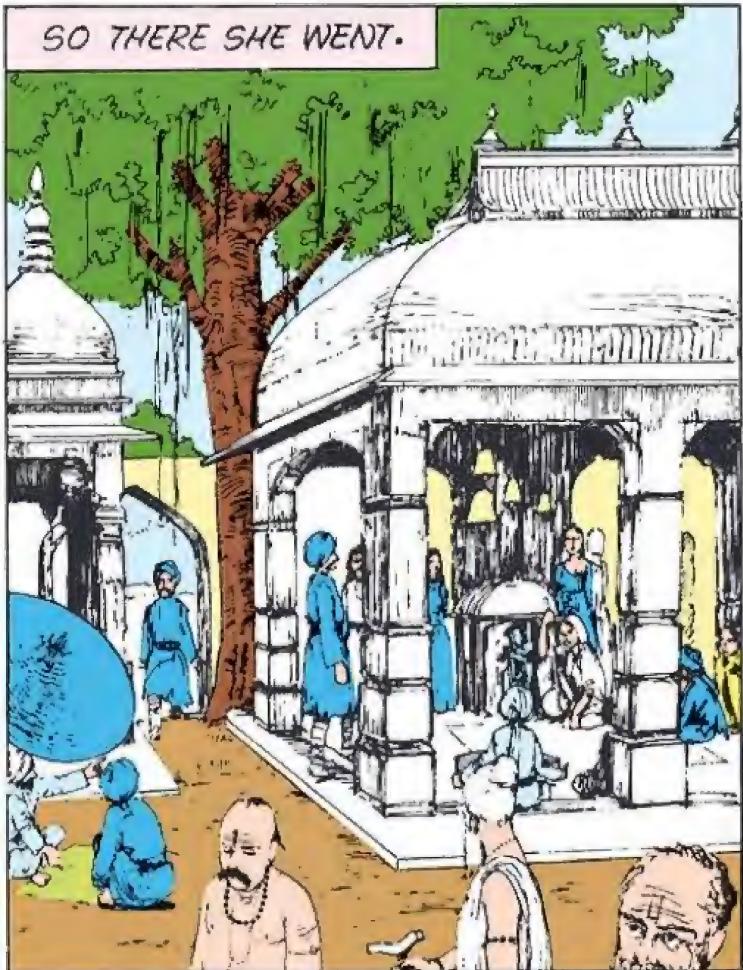
I COMMAND YOU HENCEFORTH NOT TO MIX WITH HOLY MEN AND NOT TO SING AND DANCE BEFORE THE IMAGE OF KRISHNA WITHIN THE WALLS OF THIS PALACE!



MIRA WAS RESTLESS AND UNHAPPY-

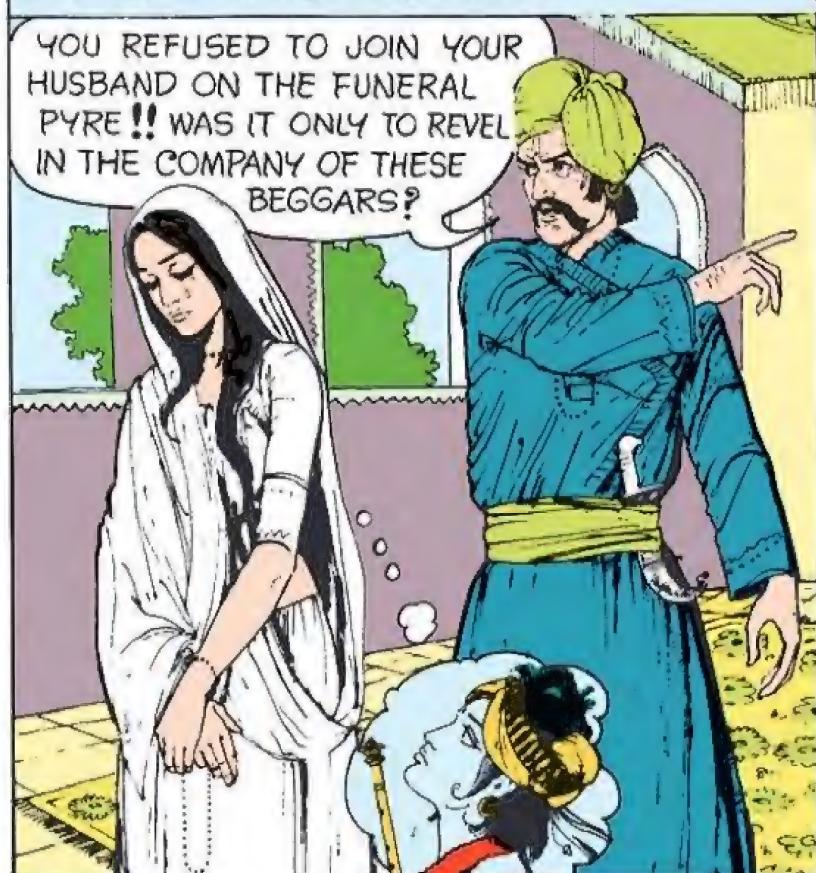


SO THERE SHE WENT.



BUT NOW THE RANA RIDICULED HER FOR MINGLING SHAMELESSLY WITH THE SADHUS AND THE COMMON DEVOTEES.

YOU REFUSED TO JOIN YOUR HUSBAND ON THE FUNERAL PYRE !! WAS IT ONLY TO REVEL IN THE COMPANY OF THESE BEGGARS ?



MIRA IGNORED THESE TAUNTS AND CONTINUED SINGING AND DANCING IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.

GOPALA IS MY BELOVED !
MIRA'S LORD IS GOPALA !

THE PEOPLE OF CHITTOR BEGAN TO LOVE AND RESPECT THEIR SAINTLY PRINCESS EVEN MORE, AND NEWS ABOUT HER SPREAD ALL OVER INDIA.

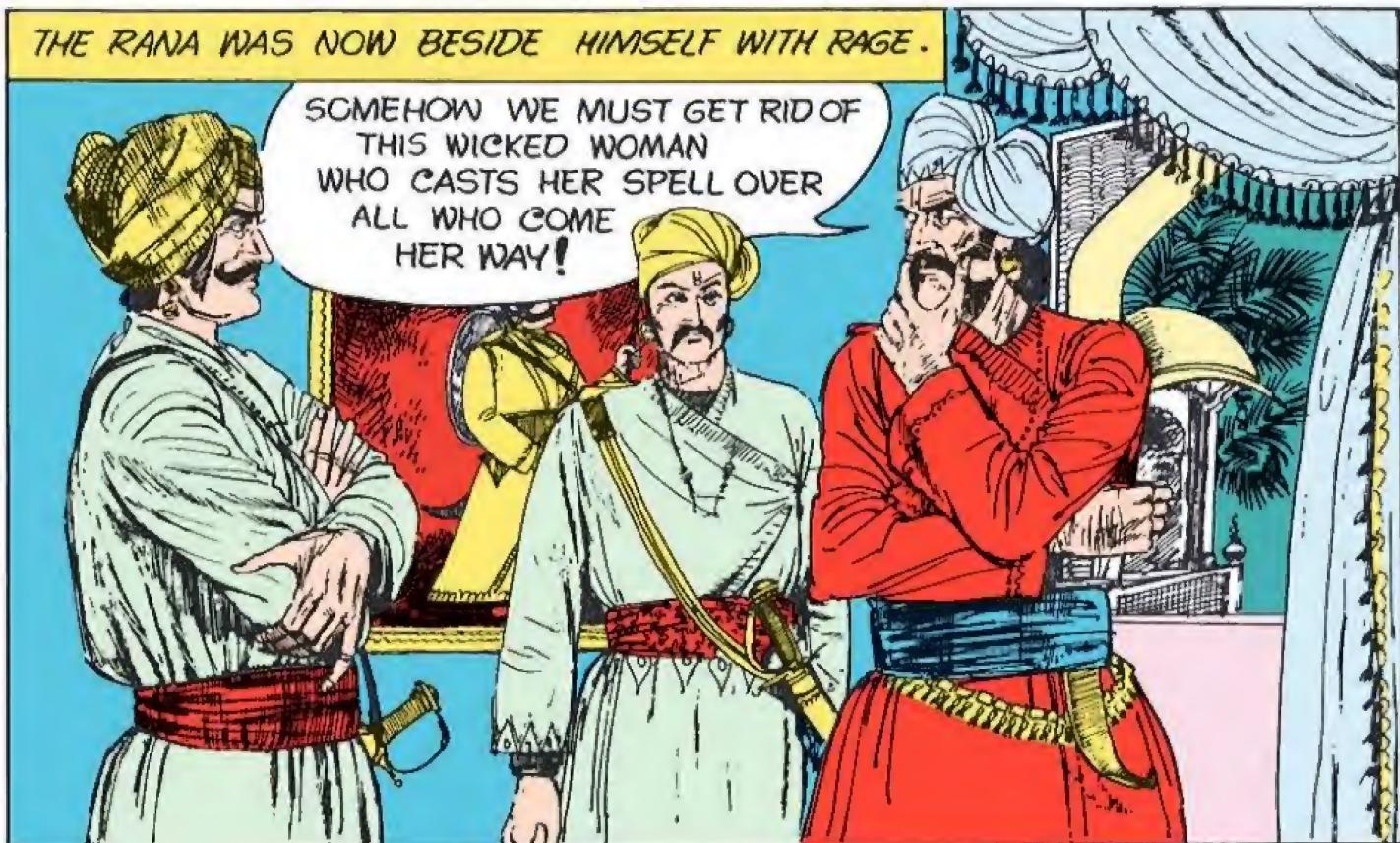


SCHOLARS AND SAINTS OF HER TIME CAME FROM DISTANT PLACES TO PAY HOMAGE TO HER.

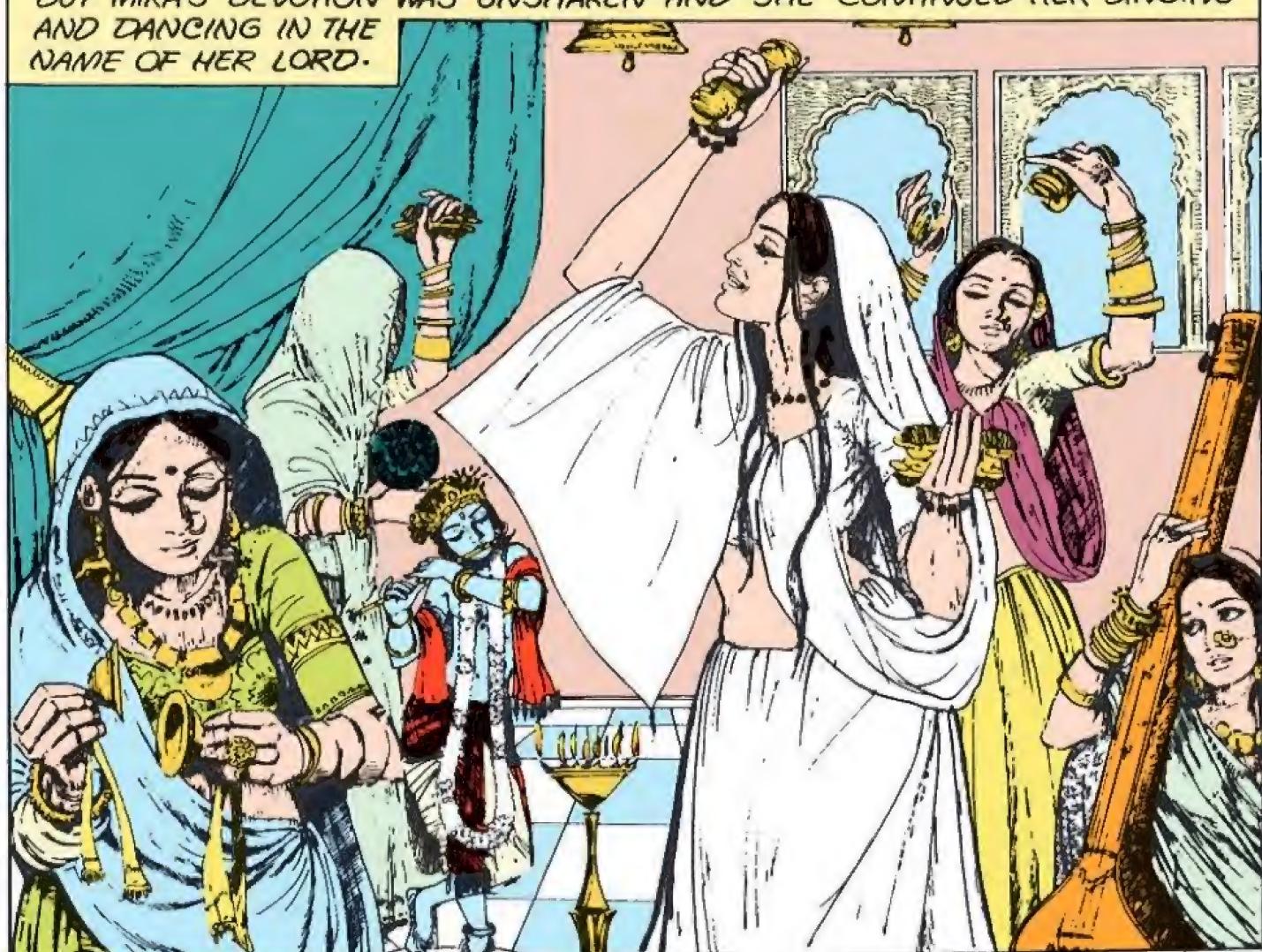


THE RANA WAS NOW BESIDE HIMSELF WITH RAGE.

SOMEHOW WE MUST GET RID OF THIS WICKED WOMAN WHO CASTS HER SPELL OVER ALL WHO COME HER WAY!



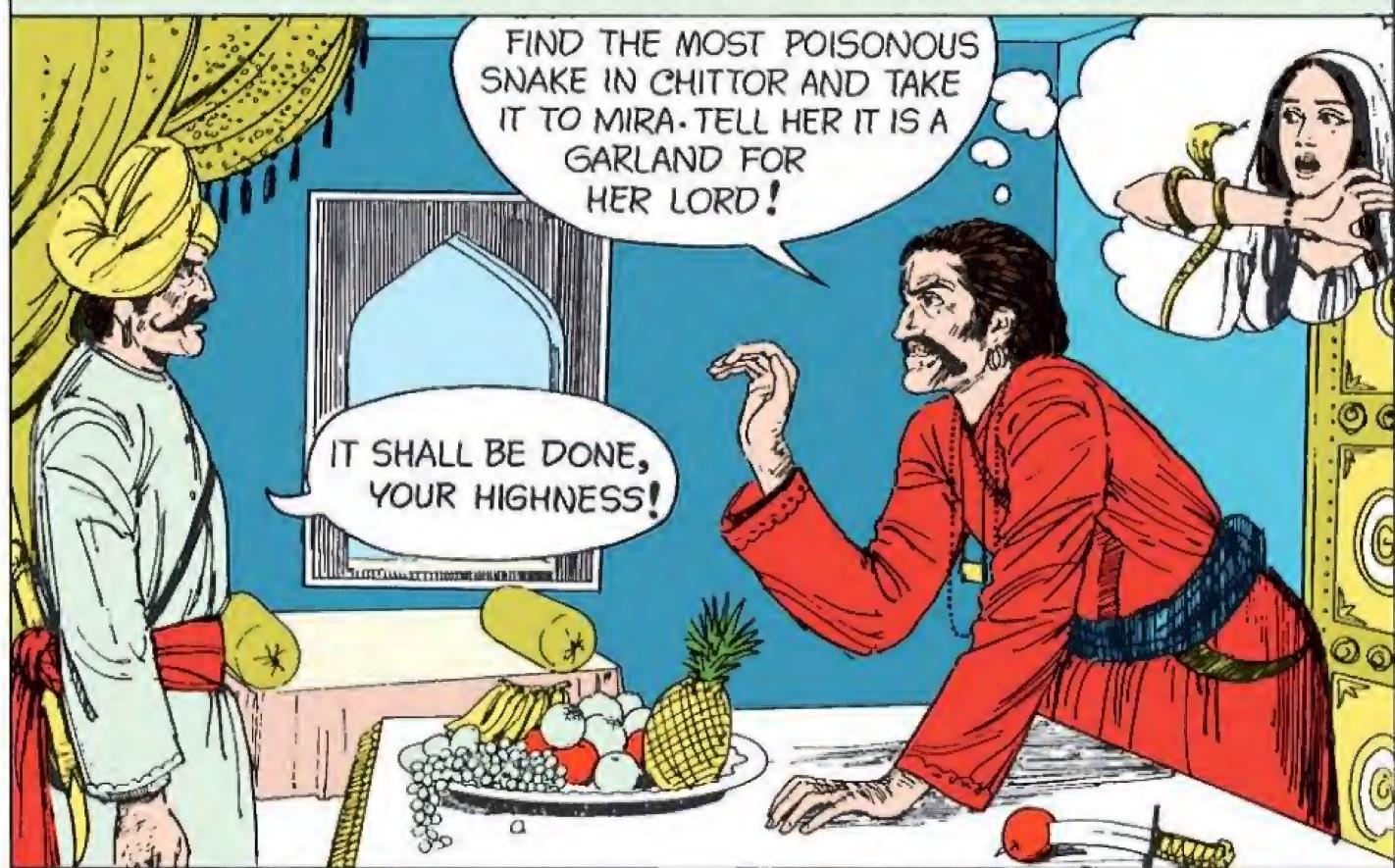
BUT MIRA'S DEVOTION WAS UNSHAKEN AND SHE CONTINUED HER SINGING AND DANCING IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.



ONE DAY THE RANA HAD A BASKET, CONTAINING A POISONOUS SNAKE, SENT TO HER.

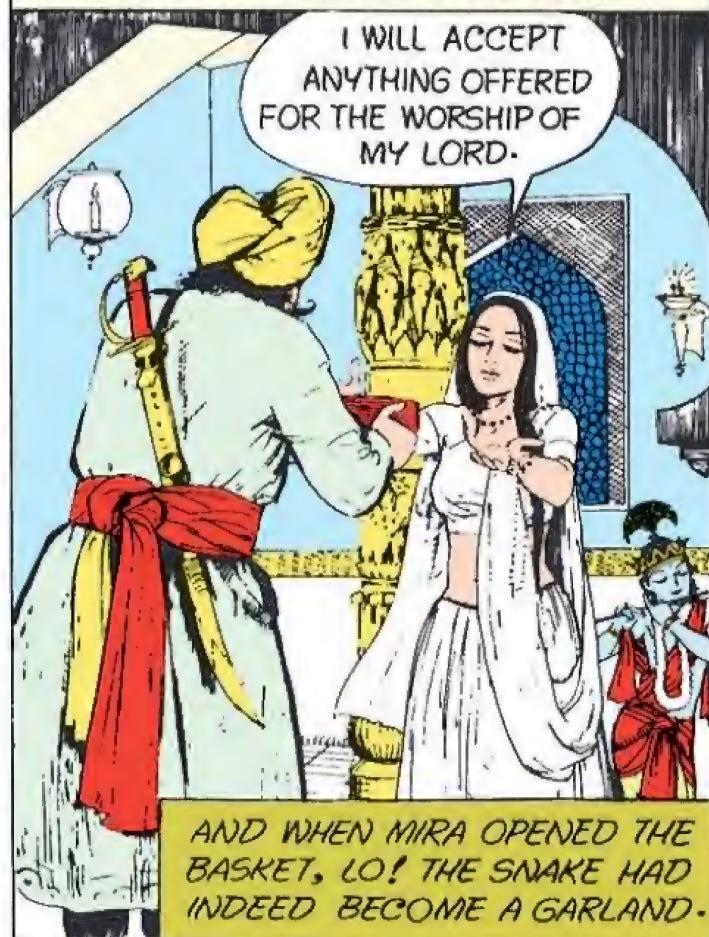
FIND THE MOST POISONOUS SNAKE IN CHITTOR AND TAKE IT TO MIRA. TELL HER IT IS A GARLAND FOR HER LORD!

IT SHALL BE DONE, YOUR HIGHNESS!



MIRA NEVER REFUSED ANYTHING THAT WAS GIVEN IN THE NAME OF HER LORD.

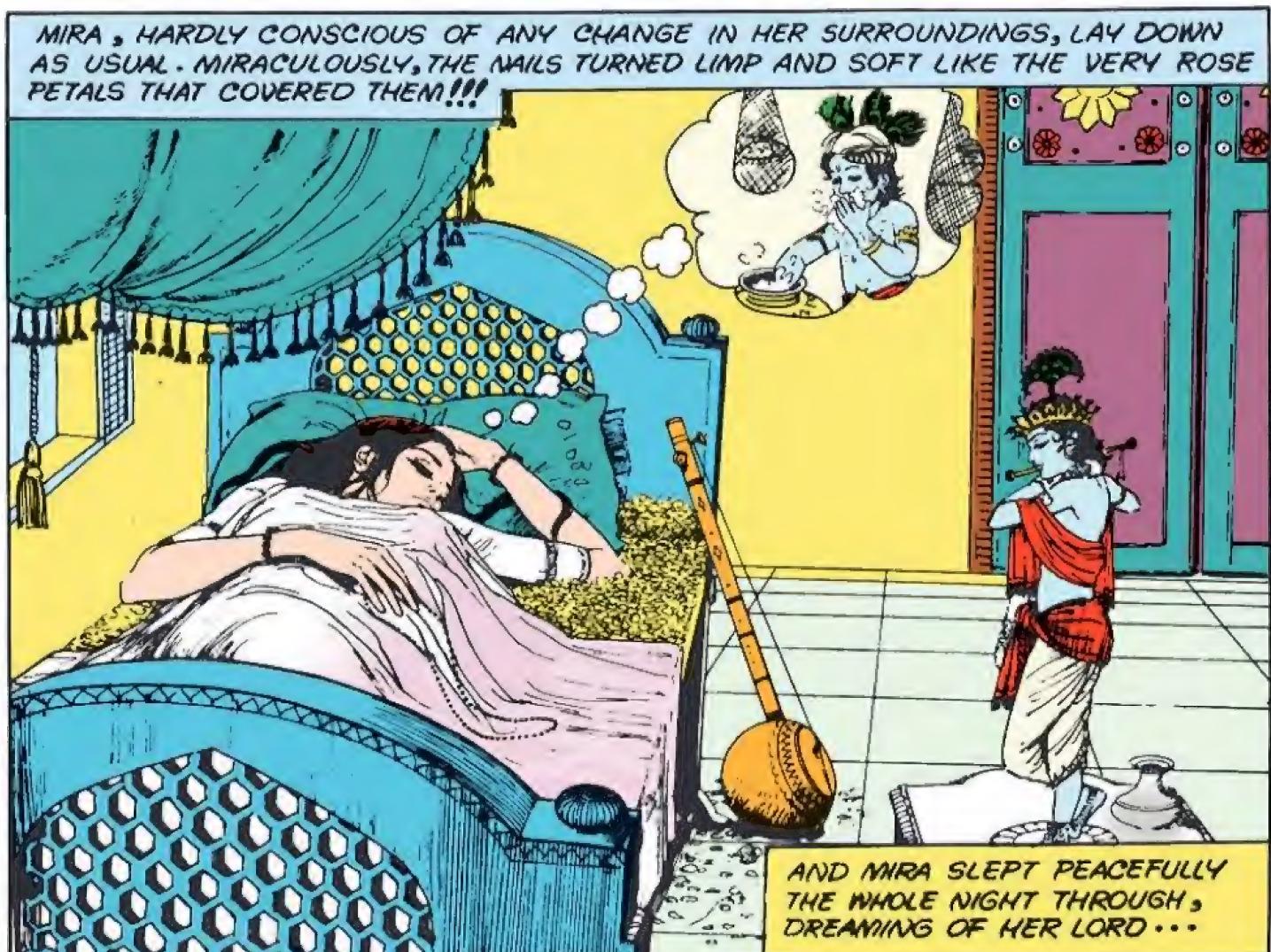
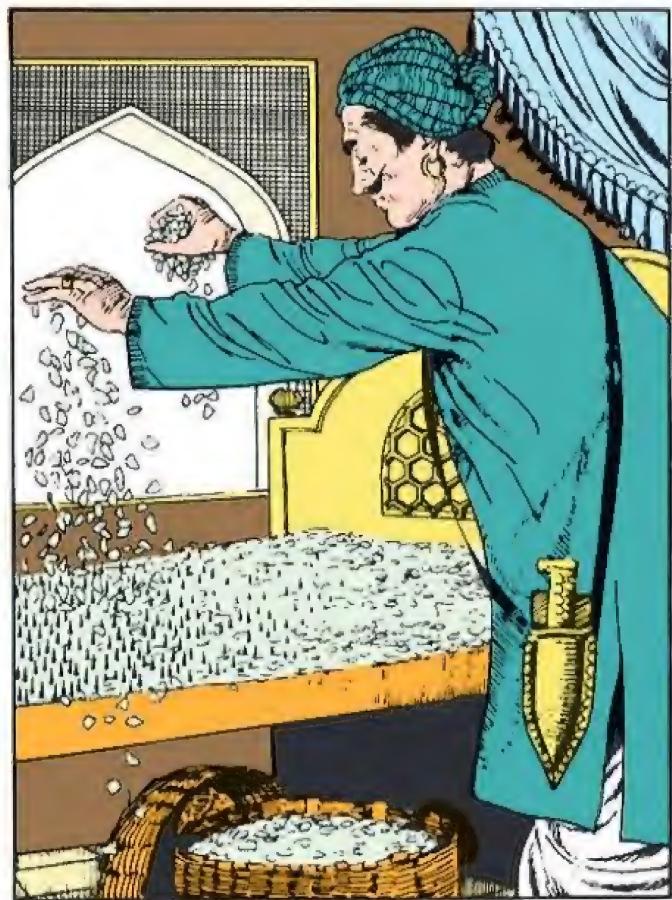
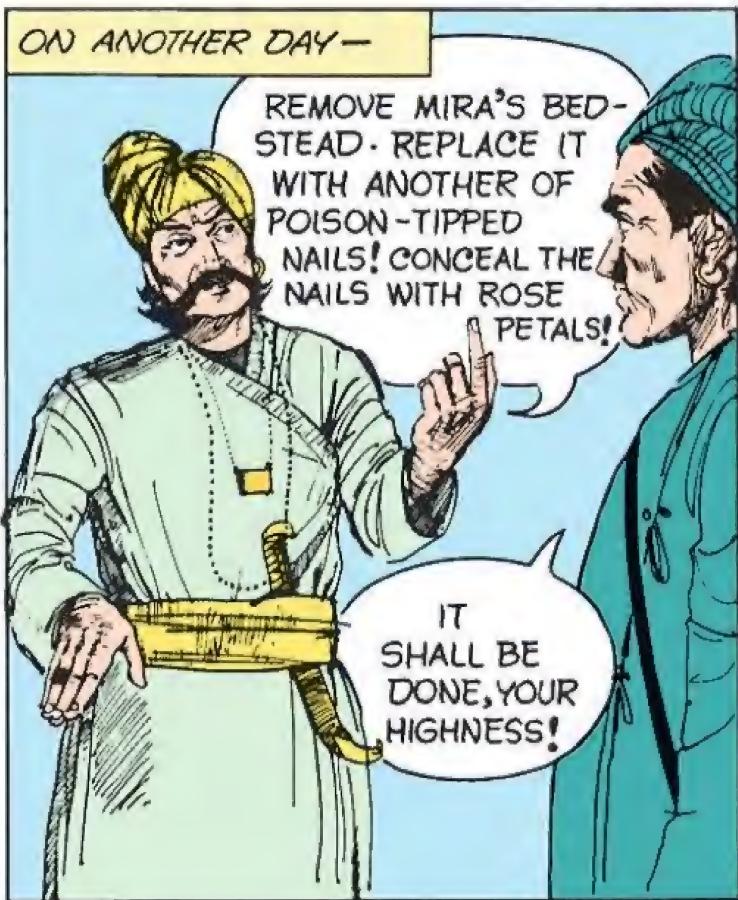
I WILL ACCEPT ANYTHING OFFERED FOR THE WORSHIP OF MY LORD.



SHE GARLANDED HER LORD'S IMAGE AND THANKED THE ASTONISHED MESSENGER!

MY ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND THANKS TO THE RANA FOR HIS KIND GESTURE.

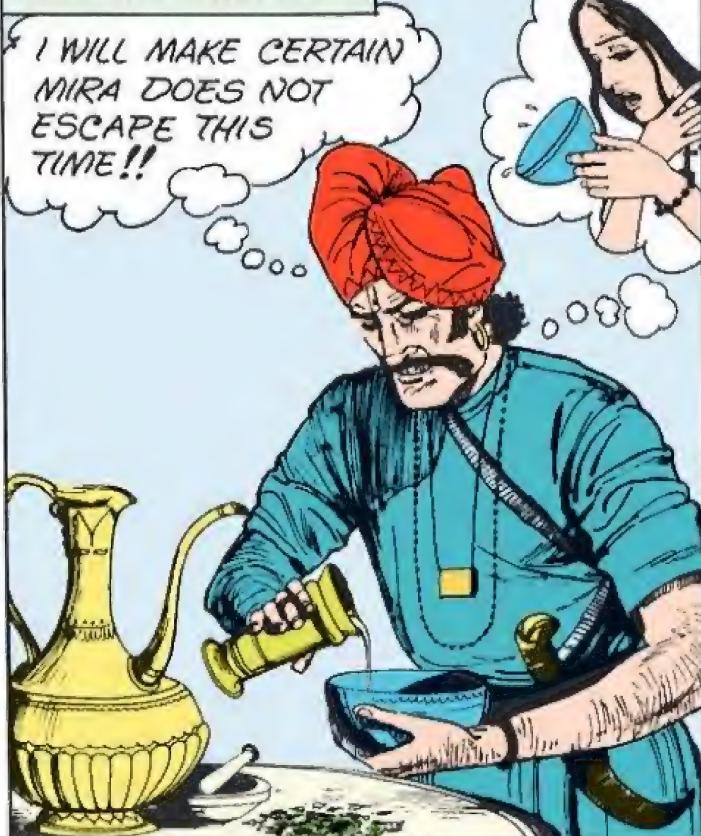




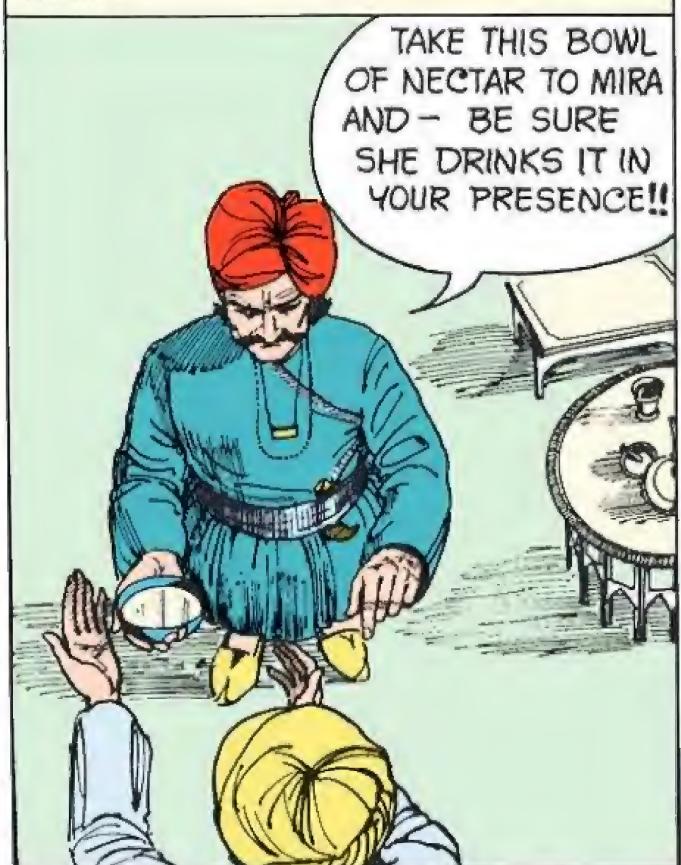
THE NEXT MORNING, THE RANA AND HIS EVIL COUNSELLORS WERE UNPLEASANTLY SURPRISED TO SEE MIRA, FRESH AS EVER, ENGAGED IN THE WORSHIP OF HER LORD!



THE RANA NOW WAS FURIOUS. HE MIXED POISON INTO A BOWL OF NECTAR WITH HIS OWN HANDS.



HE SENT FOR HIS MOST TRUSTED MAN.



THE MAN TOOK THE BOWL TO MIRA.

A BOWL OF NECTAR
FROM THE RANA WHO
REPENTS OF HIS HARSH
TREATMENT OF MIRABAI.

MIRA, HARDLY CONSCIOUS OF WHAT
SHE ATE OR DRANK, ACCEPTED THE
NECTAR AND SWALLOWED IT
MECHANICALLY.

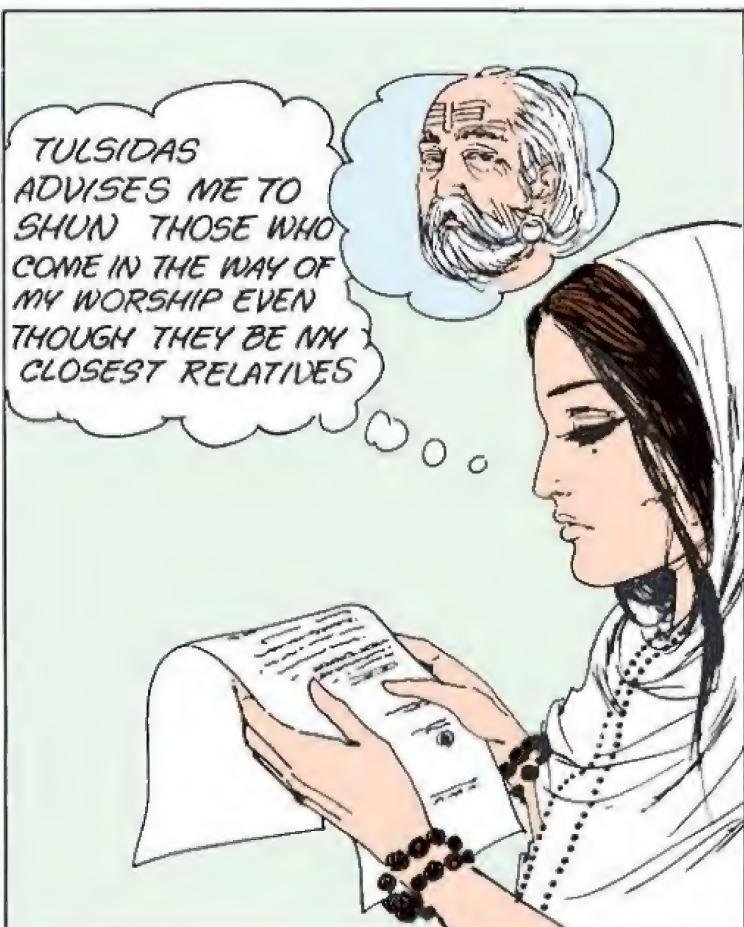
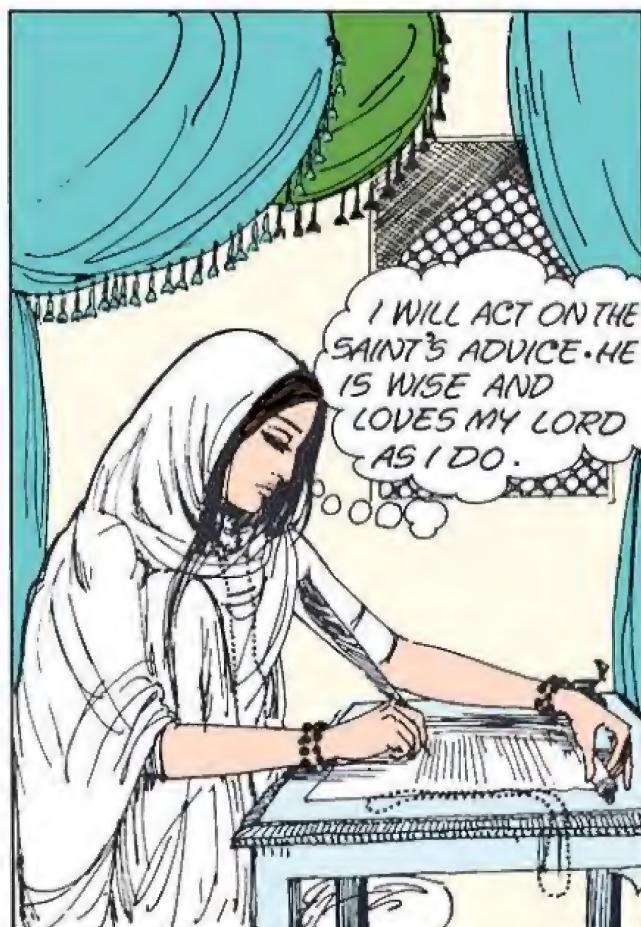
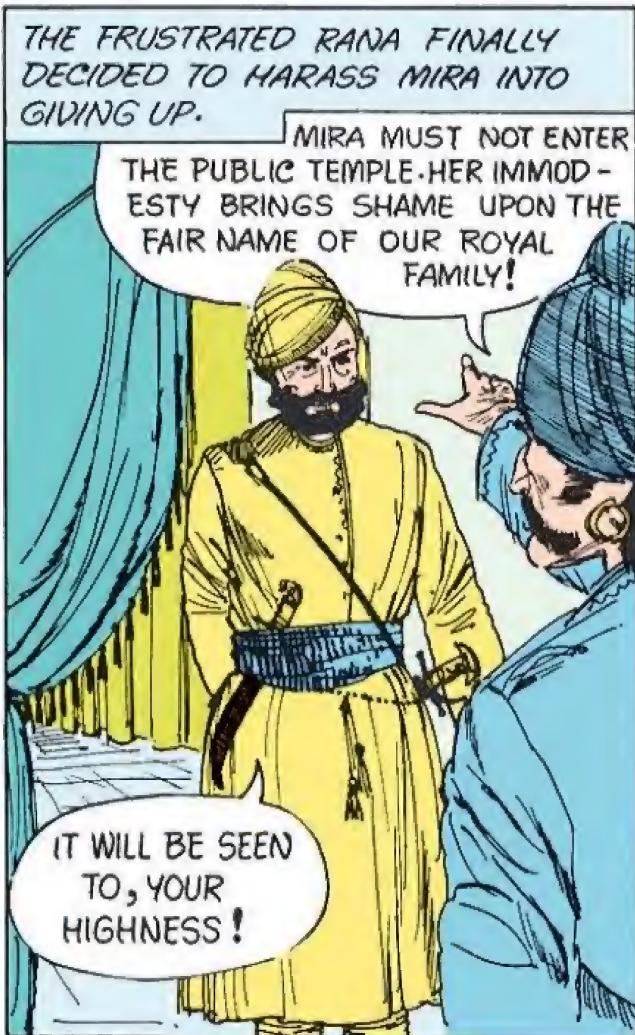


AND LO! THE POISON
TURNED INTO NECTAR!!



MIRA CONTINUED SITTING
BEFORE HER LORD WITH A SMILE
ON HER LIPS.

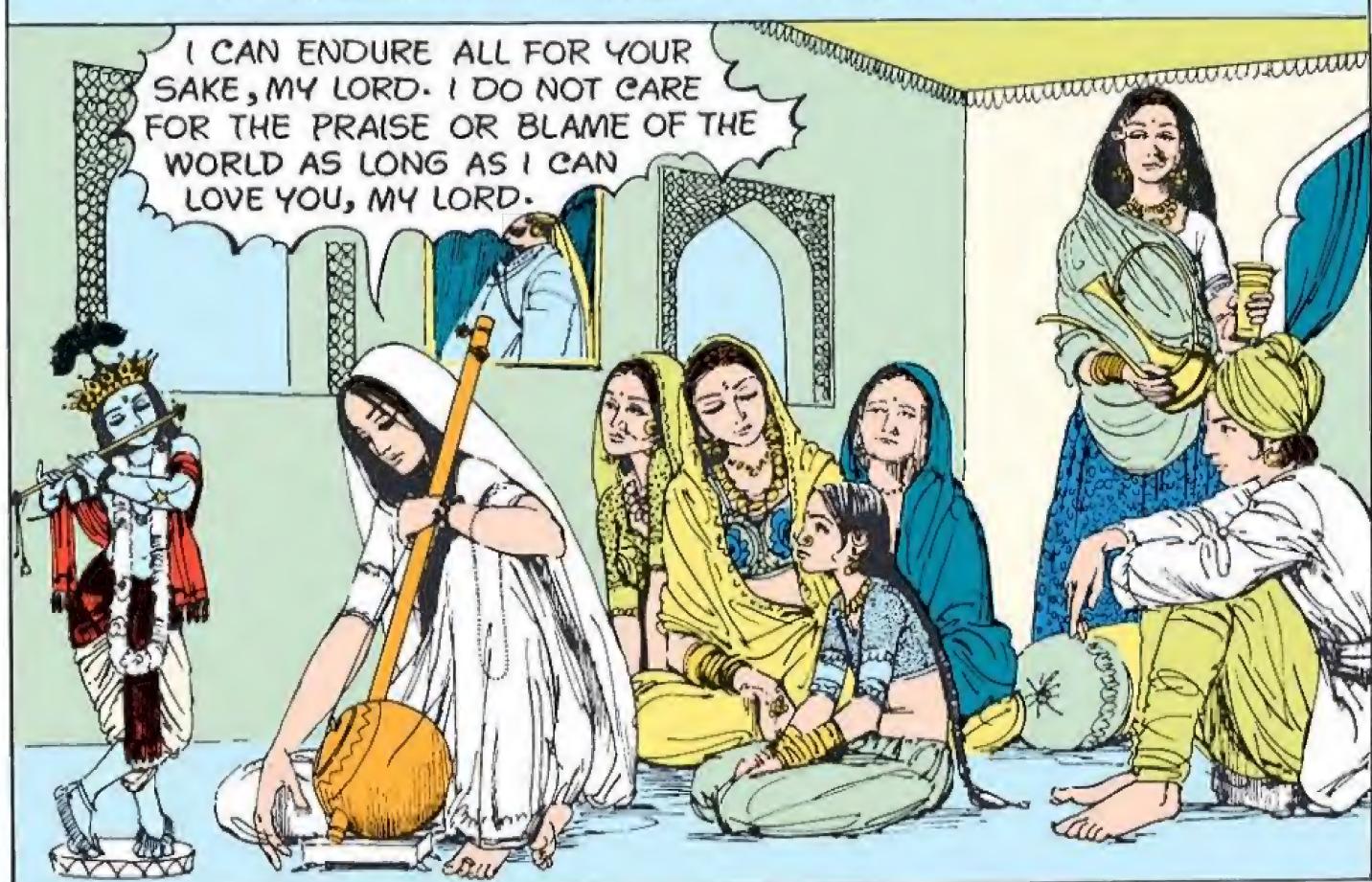




MIRA TOOK THE HINT AND LEFT CHITTOR FOR MERTA, HER UNCLE'S KINGDOM. THERE SHE WAS LOVINGLY WELCOMED.



SHE WAS GIVEN FULL FREEDOM TO WORSHIP IN PEACE.



AND SO SHE PASSED A FEW MORE YEARS IMMERSED IN HER LORD.



MIRA WAS GROWING OLD. SHE KNEW THAT HER END WAS NEAR.

MY LORD, IT IS TIME YOU TOOK ME TO YOU AND TO REST. I SHALL VISIT ALL THE PLACES DEAR TO YOU AND THEN WAIT FOR YOU.



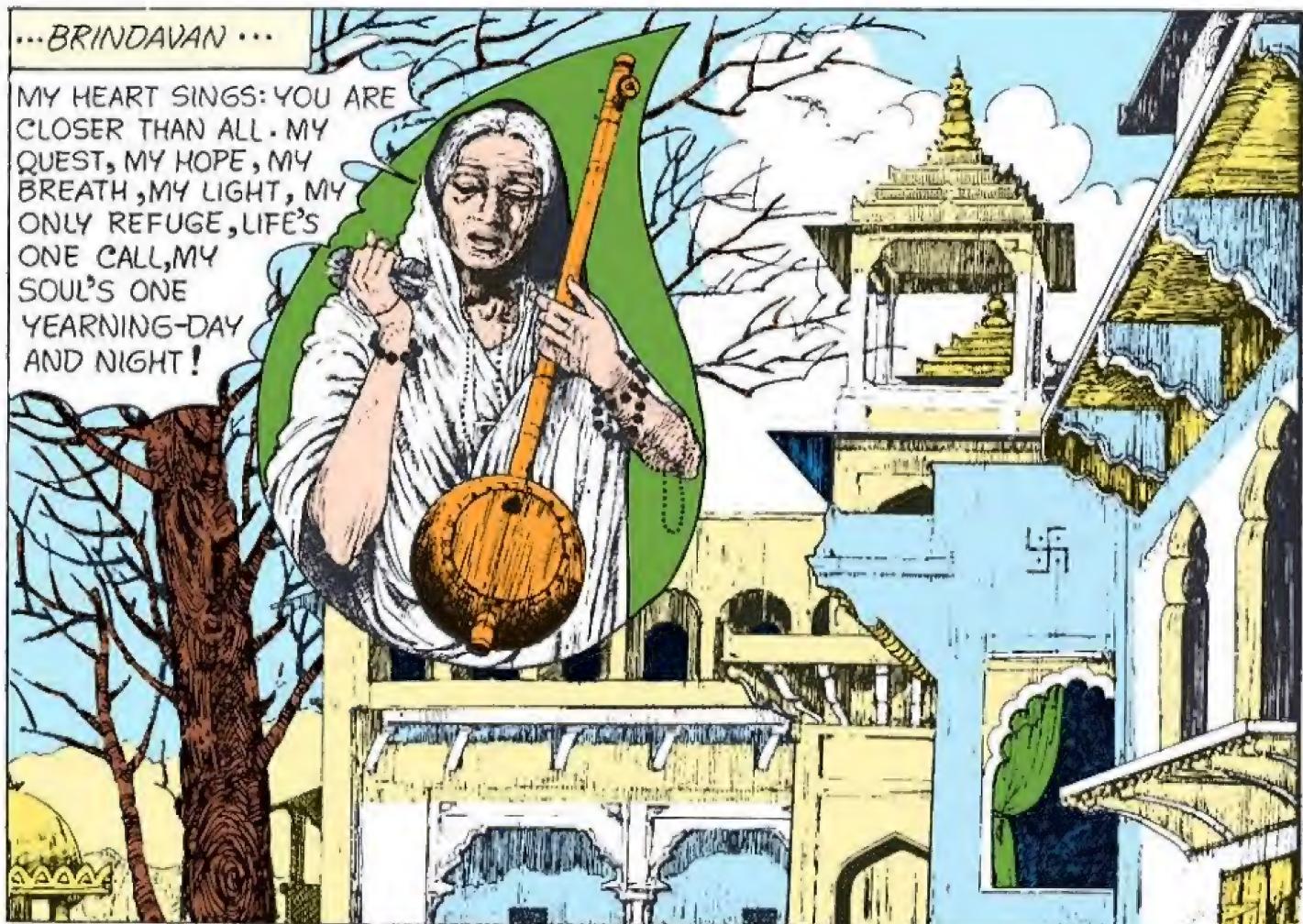
SO SHE SET OUT ON A PILGRIMAGE TO MATHURA...



EVERLASTINGLY I WILL CHASE YOU - A SHADOW LOYAL AND TRUE, AND WILL RECEIVE WHATEVER YOU GIVE ME

...BRINDAVAN ...

MY HEART SINGS: YOU ARE
CLOSER THAN ALL. MY
QUEST, MY HOPE, MY
BREATH, MY LIGHT, MY
ONLY REFUGE, LIFE'S
ONE CALL, MY
SOUL'S ONE
YEARNING-DAY
AND NIGHT!

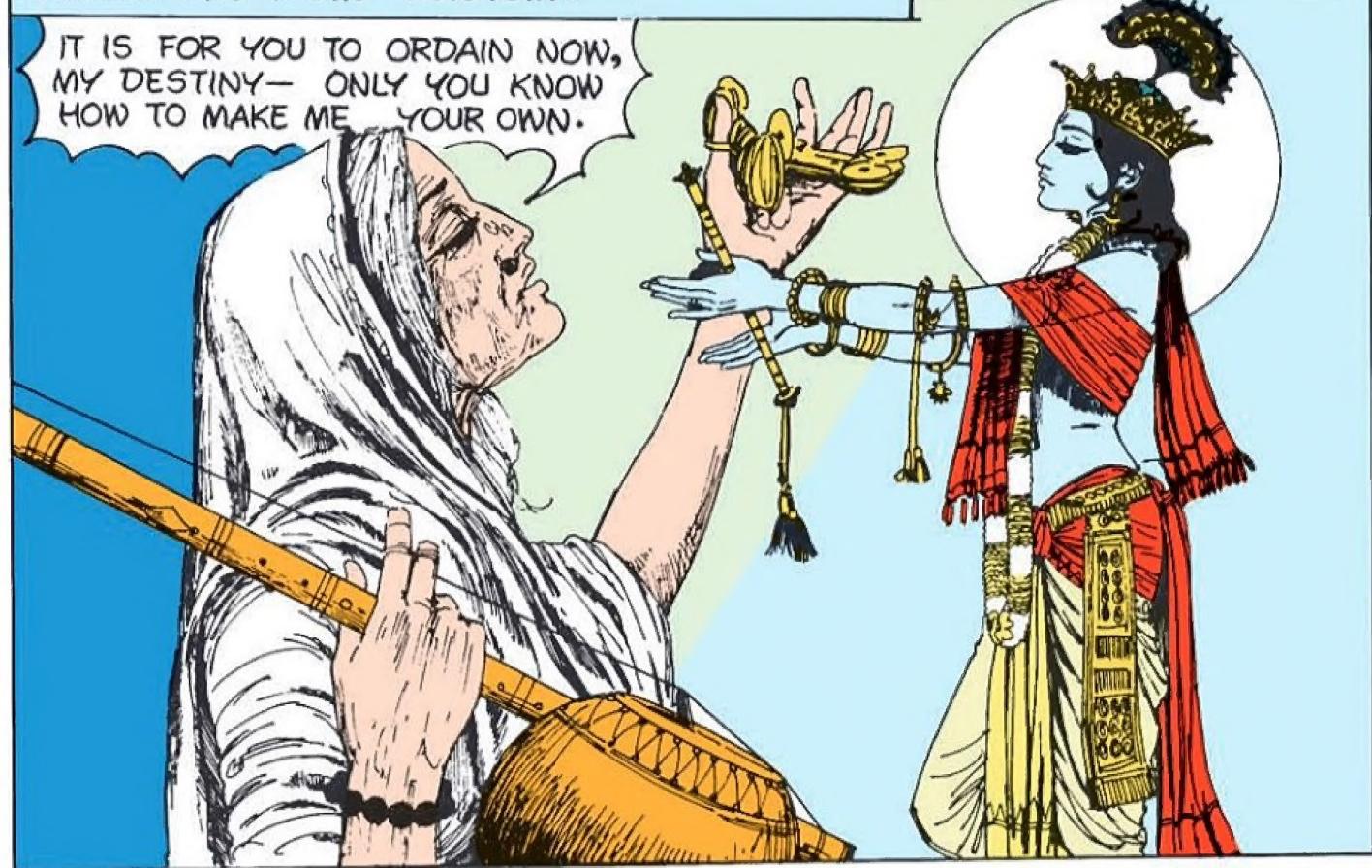


...AND DWARKA.

NOW MIRA IS
OBLIVIOUS TO THE WORLD.
BUT SINGS AND SINGS AND
SINGS: MY BELOVED'S
COME TO ME!

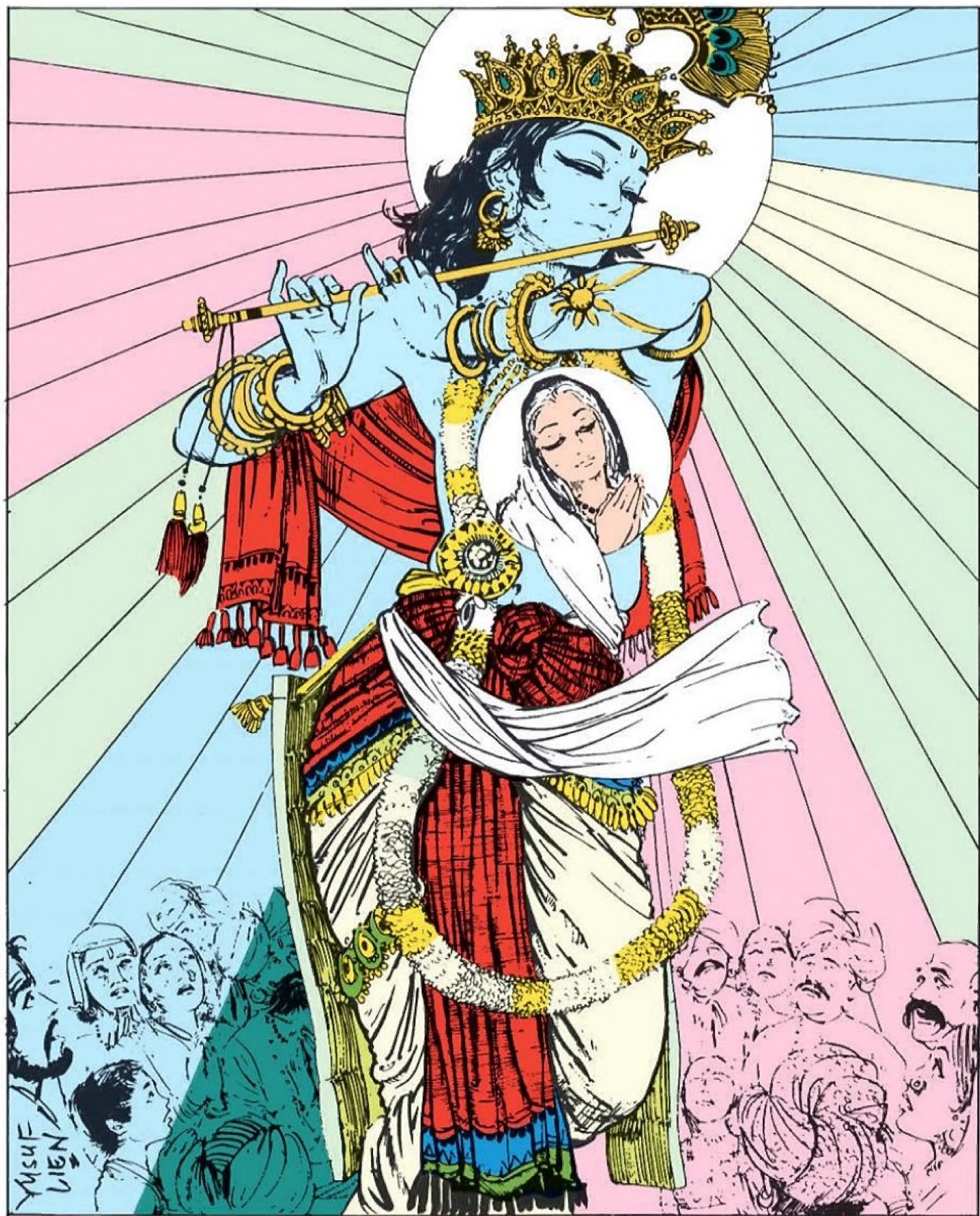


SHE STAYED ON AT DWARKA BECAUSE THE CALL OF HER LORD HAD BECOME LOUDER AND MORE INSISTENT.



ONE DAY IN THE MIDDLE OF A PRAYER MEETING THE CALL CAME SO LOUD AND DEAFENING THAT MIRA, WHILE DANCING FELL INTO A TRANCE AND FAINTED ON HER LORD.





AND MIRA AT LAST BECAME ONE WITH THE LORD SHE HAD WORSHIPPED AND YEARNED FOR, EVER SINCE SHE HAD TAKEN HIM FOR HER BRIDEGROOM, AT THE TENDER AGE OF FIVE !!

WHICH OF THE ACKS HAVE YOU STILL NOT READ?

EPICS AND MYTHOLOGY <i>Best known stories from the Epics and the Puranas</i>	Tales Of Shiva	Swami Chinmayananda	The Mouse Merchant	Baladitya And Yashodharma
	Tales Of Vishnu	Swami Pranavananda	True Friends	Balban
	Tales Of Yudhishtira	Tales Of Sai Baba	Kanwal And Kehar	Banda Bahadur
Abhimanyu	Tapati	Tansen	Kesari The Flying Thief	Bappa Rawal
Agastya	Thanjavur	Tulsidas	King Kusha	Beni Madho And Pir Ali
Andhaka	The Churning Of The Ocean	Vidyasagar	Manduka	Bhagat Singh
Aniruddha	The Gita	Vivekananda	PANCHATANTRA TALES	Bidhi Chand
Aruni And Uttanka	The Golden Mongoose	Zarathushtra	Crows And Owls	Bimbisara
Ashwini Kumars	The King In A Parrot's Body		How The Jackal Ate	Chand Bibi
Ayyappan	The Lord Of Lanka		The Elephant	Chandra Shekhar Azad
Bahubali	The Pandava Princes		The Brahmin And	Chandragupta Maurya
Bhanumati	The Pandavas In Hiding		The Goat	Chennamma Of Keladi
Bheema And Hanuman	The Parijata Tree		The Dullard	Dara Shukho And
Bheeshma	The Sons Of Rama		The Greedy Mother-in-law	Aurangazeb
Chandhrasha	The Syamantaka Gem		The Jackal And	Durgadas
Dasharatha	Tirupati		The Wardrum	Ellora Caves
Dhruba And Ashtavakra	Tripura		Raman Of Tenali	Hakka And Bukka
Draupadi	Uloopi		Raman The Matchless Wit	Hari Singh Nalwa
Drona	Vaishno Devi		Sahasramalla	Harsha
Elephanta	Vali		Sakshi Gopal	Hemu
Gandhari	Vishwamitra		Satwant Kaur	Humayun
Ganesha	Yayati		Sharan Kaur	Jahangir
Ganesha And The Moon			Shrenik	Jallianwala Bagh
Ganga			Sukhu And Dukhu	Kalpana Chawla
Garuda			Sundari	Kochunni
Ghatotkacha			Tales Of Maryada Rama	Krishnadeva Raya
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Harischandra			Of Agad Datta	Lalitaditya
Heroes Of Hampi			The Adventures Of	Mangal Pande
Indra And Shachi			Baddu And Chhotu	Noor Jahan
Indra And Shibi			The Bridegroom's Ring	Padmini
Indra And Vritra			The Celestial Necklace	Panna And Hadi Rani
Jagannatha Of Puri			The Clever Dancer	Paurava And Alexander
Jayadratha			The Cowherd Of Alawi	Prithviraj Chauhan
Kacha And Devayani			The Fearless Boy	Raja Bhoja
Karna			The Fool's Disciples	Raja Raja Chola
Karttikeya			The Golden Sand	Rana Kumbha
Konark			The Green Demon	Rana Pratap
Krishna			The Unhappy Tiger	Rana Sanga
Krishna And Jarasandha			The Learned Pandit	Rani Abbakka
Krishna And Narakasura			The Lost Prince	Rani Durgavati
Krishna And Rukmini			The Magic Grove	Rani Of Jhansi
Krishna And Shishupala			The Miraculous Conch	Ranjit Singh
Krishna And The False Vaasudeva			The Mystery Of	Rash Bihari Bose
Kubera			The Missing Gift	Roopmati
Kumbhakarna			The Pandit And The	Sambhaji
Mahabharata			Milkmaid	Samudra Gupta
Mahiravana			The Pig And The Dog	Sea Route To India
Nachiketa			The Pious Cat	Shah Jahan
Nahusha			The Priceless Gem	Shalivahana
Nala Damayanti			The Prince And	Shantala
Pariekshit			The Magician	Sher Shah
Parashurama			The Prophecy	Shivaji
Prabhavati			The Queen's Necklace	Subhas Chandra Bose
Pradyumna			The Rainbow Prince	Sultana Razia
Prahlad			The Secret Of The	Surjya Sen
Purushottam Dev And Padmavati			Talking Bird	Tachcholi Othenan
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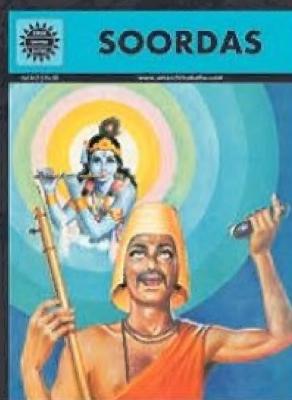
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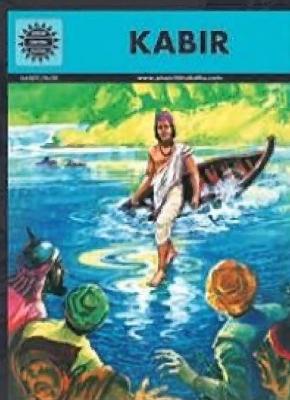
MIRABAI

She was only a child of five and he a mere image of the Lord Krishna, but little Mira loved him with all her heart. So strong was her devotion that it rendered even irate kings and murderous relatives powerless. Mirabai became a queen, but she continued to serenade her Lord through the ups and downs of her eventful life. Her hymns to Krishna, which are sung to this day, left even the great Mughal emperor, Akbar, spellbound.

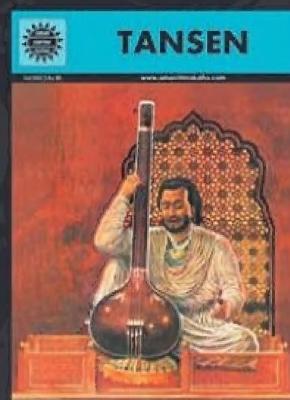
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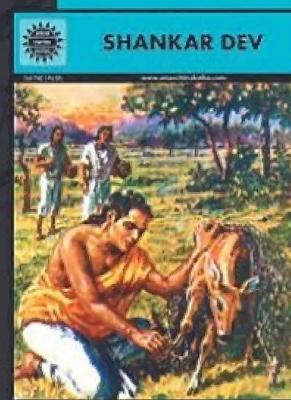
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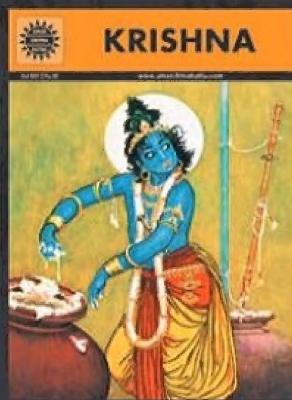


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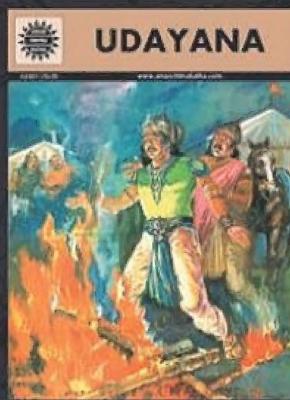


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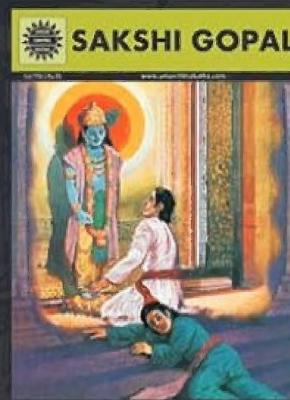
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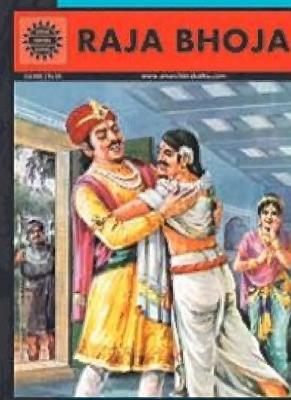
KRISHNA



UDAYANA



SAKSHI GOPAL



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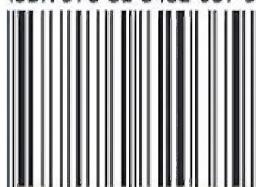
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